4
TOKYO
TARAREBA
GIRLS
AKIKO
HIGASHIMURA

Tokyo
TARAREBA
GIRLS
4
AKIKO
HIGASHIMURA

TODAY'S RECOMMENDATIONS

ACT 12 SUDARA WOMEN 003

ACT 13 TIME MACHINE WOMEN 043

ACT 14 INVISIBLE WOMEN 083

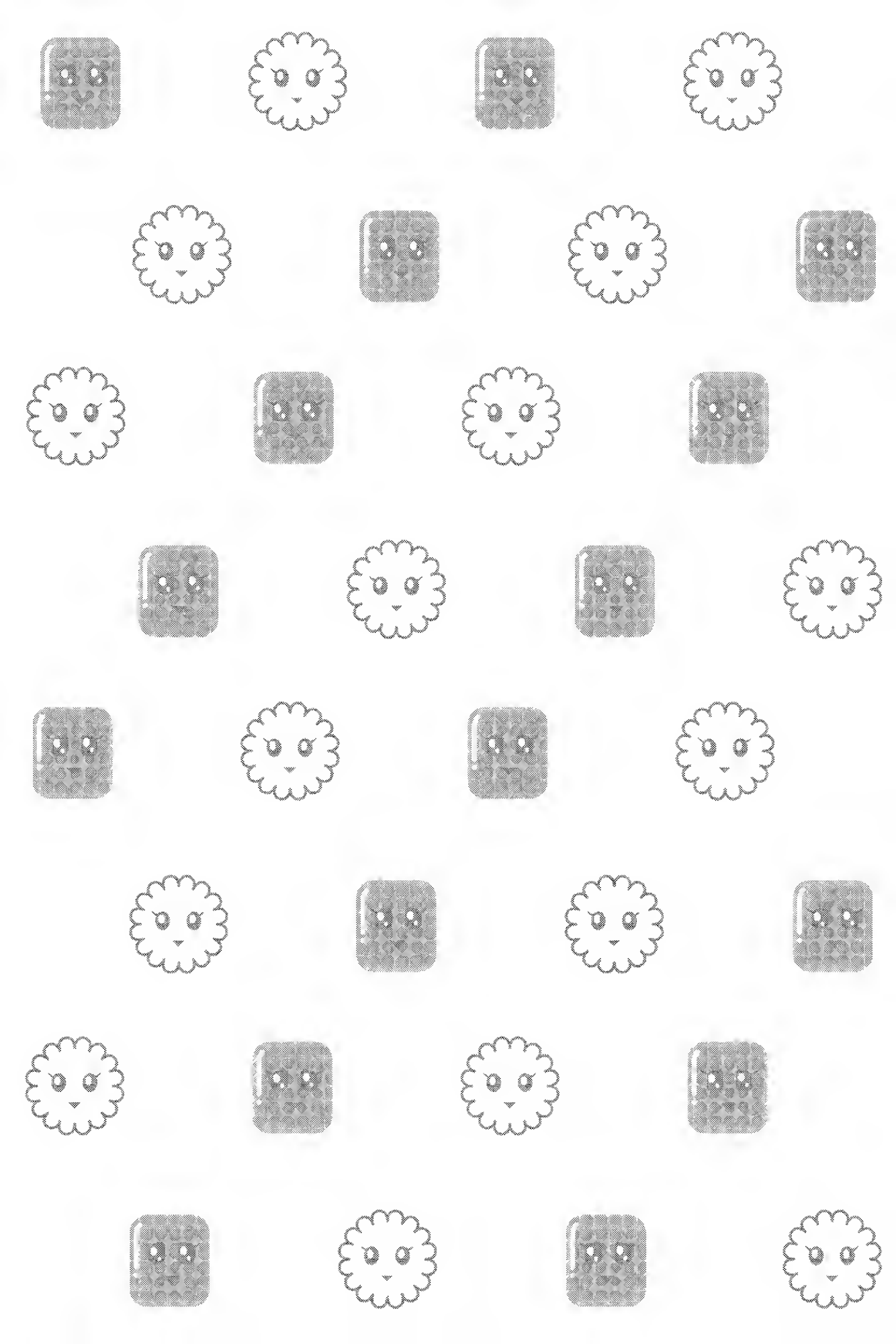
ACT 15 POLKA DOT WOMAN 123

SIDE STORY TARARE-BAR (NIGHT 4) 165

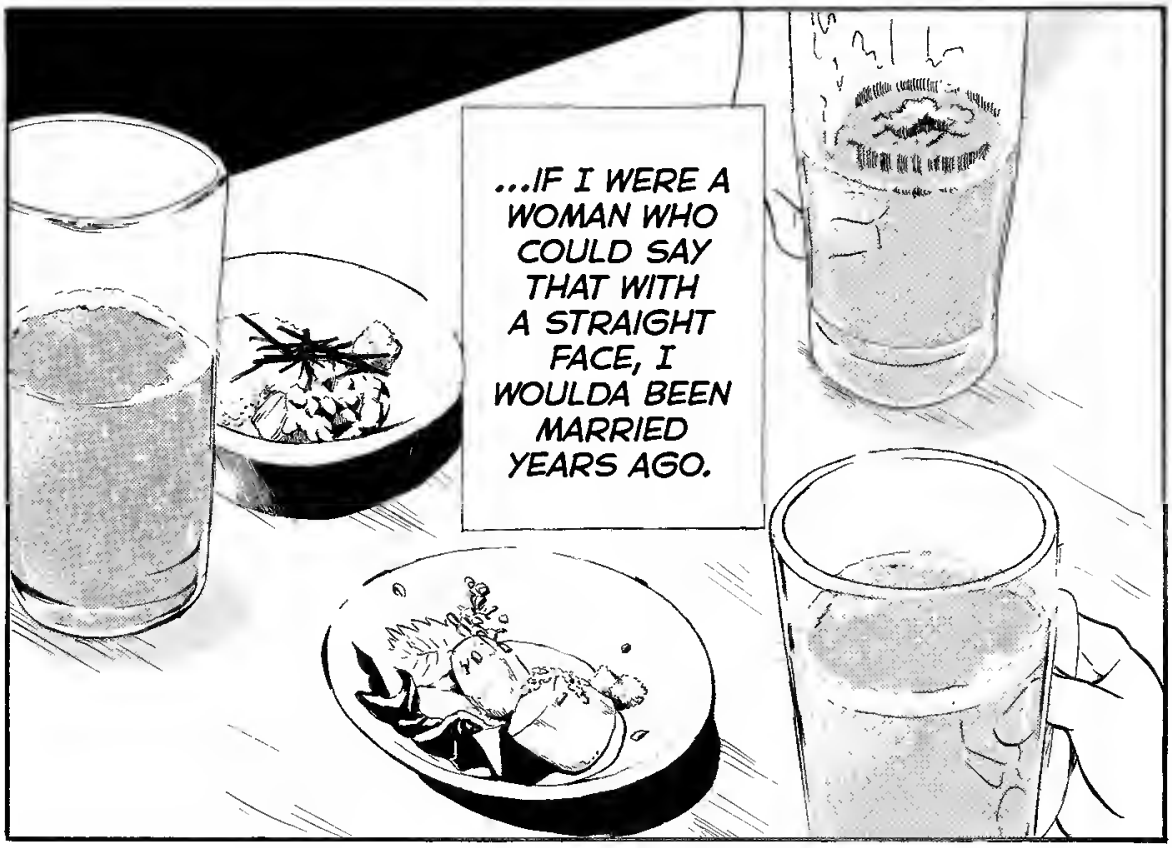
SIDE STORY TARARE-BAR (NIGHT 5) 169

ACT Ex BONUS STORY 174

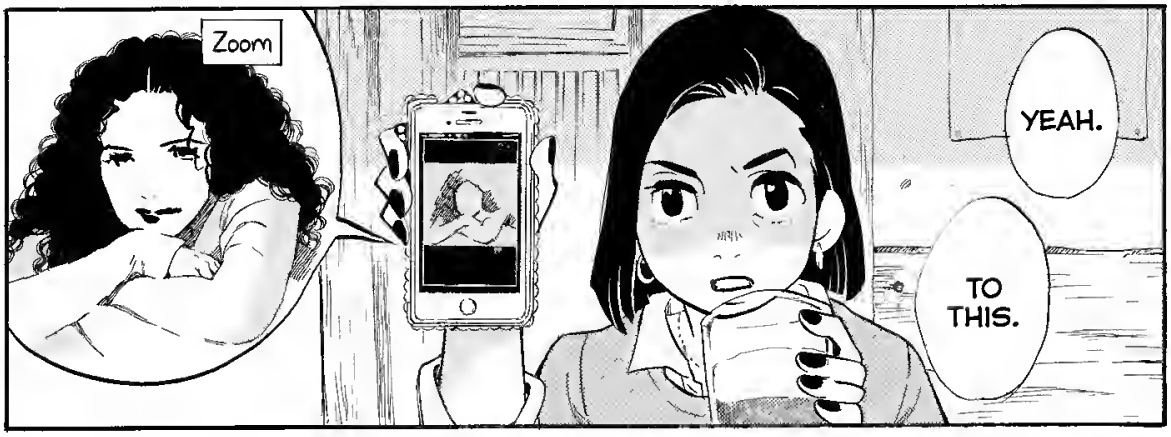
ACT 12 SUDARA WOMEN



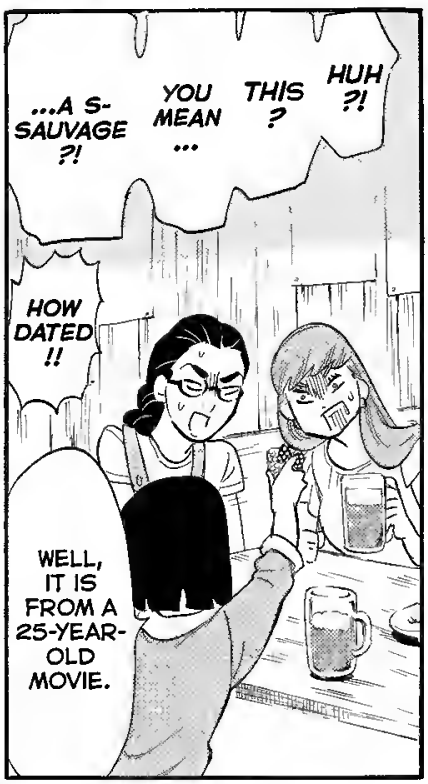
"NO MATTER HOW OLD THEY GET, WOMEN WANT THEIR BOYFRIEND TO COLOR THEIR WHOLE WORLD."


...IF I WERE A WOMAN WHO COULD SAY THAT WITH A STRAIGHT FACE, I WOULDA BEEN MARRIED YEARS AGO.

HE WANTS YOU TO CHANGE YOUR HAIR?


Zoom
YEAH.
TO THIS.

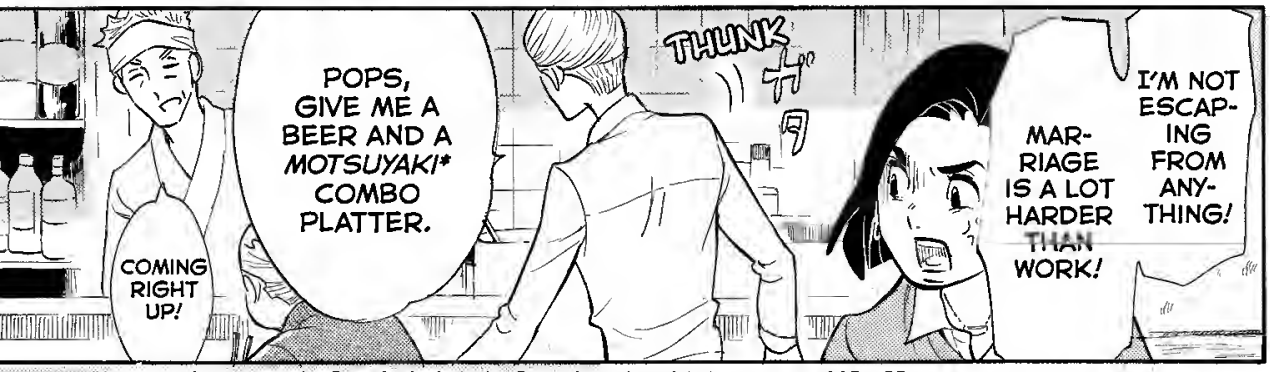
I THINK HE JUST REALLY LIKES THIS MOVIE... HE'S A LITTLE OB-SESSED ...
OH... STYLE?
IS THIS GUY'S SENSE OF STYLE OKAY?!
HE WANTS YOU TO MAKE YOUR HAIR LOOK LIKE JANET JACKSON'S ?!
WHAT ?!
NO, WAIT. CALM DOWN, YOU TWO.


...A S-SAUVAGE ?!
YOU MEAN ...
THIS ?
HUH ?!
HOW DATED !!
WELL, IT IS FROM A 25-YEAR-OLD MOVIE.

AND IN BED HE'S...
HIS PERSONALITY?
SWEET!
HIS BODY?
MACHO !!
HIS FACE?
GREAT !
LOOK, MAYBE HIS STYLE'S KIND OF OLD-FASHIONED BECAUSE HE LOVES THAT MOVIE, BUT EVERYTHING ELSE ABOUT HIM IS GREAT, RIGHT?!
IT'S GREAT !!
EVERYTHING ELSE IS REALLY FREAKIN' GREAT !!
THEN FIRST THING IN THE MORNING, GO TO THE SALON AND GET YOUR HAIR PERMED UP ALL FRIZZY!!
GOOD !!
FWAP
SUPER, EXPLOSIVELY GREAT, CHIEF PETTY OFFICER !!
WHOOSH
RIGHT?
NO... I WOULDN'T.
NEITHER WOULD I.
IT'D BE RUDE NOT TO DO THAT MUCH FOR HIM!!
HE'S GOING OUT WITH YOU AND YOU'RE NOT YOUNG OR PRETTY!!
HUH?
THEN, YOU'D PERM YOUR HAIR IF YOU WERE IN HER POSITION, KAORI?
WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?! YOU'VE GOTTA MEET HIM HALFWAY ON HIS PREFERENCES!!
I DON'T WANT FRIZZY HAIR!!
WAHHHHH!!

CLOTHES ARE ONE THING, BUT I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO LET A MAN CHOOSE MY HAIRSTYLE.
RIGHT?
AL-THOUGH I DON'T WANT THEM PICKING MY CLOTHES EITHER.
OR YOUR DECO-RATING, RIGHT?
HOLD-ING YET ANOTHER WHAT-IF GIRLS' NIGHT OUT?
WHOA!
THE BIG STAR'S HERE.
SHOULD YOU REALLY BE COMING TO A PLACE LIKE THIS, YOU CELEBRITY?
ARE YOU REALLY DRINKING AGAIN AFTER WHAT YOU DID YESTERDAY?
IT'S OKAY! RINKO IS SUUUPER HAPPY RIGHT NOW!
THAT'S RIGHT! RIGHT NOW, WE'RE TOSSING BACK A FEW WHILE WE LISTEN TO HER GUSH ABOUT HER NEW BOYFRIEND!
AH, THAT NEW MAN SHE MEN-TIONED.
SO?
DID YOU SAY YOU WERE MARRYING THIS GUY?
HUH?!
MARRY-ING?
WHAT?! YOU'RE ALREADY THAT FAR ALONG?!
PINK

GRR!
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU FOUND A GOOD ESCAPE ROUTE.
GOOD FOR YOU.
I GUESS SO. WE AREN'T GETTING ANY YOUNGER, AFTER ALL...
OH... WELL, YEAH...
TWITCH
TWITCH


COMING RIGHT UP!
POPS, GIVE ME A BEER AND A *MOTSUYAKI* COMBO PLATTER.
THUNK
MAR-RIAGE IS A LOT HARDER THAN WORK!
I'M NOT ESCAP-ING FROM ANY-THING!

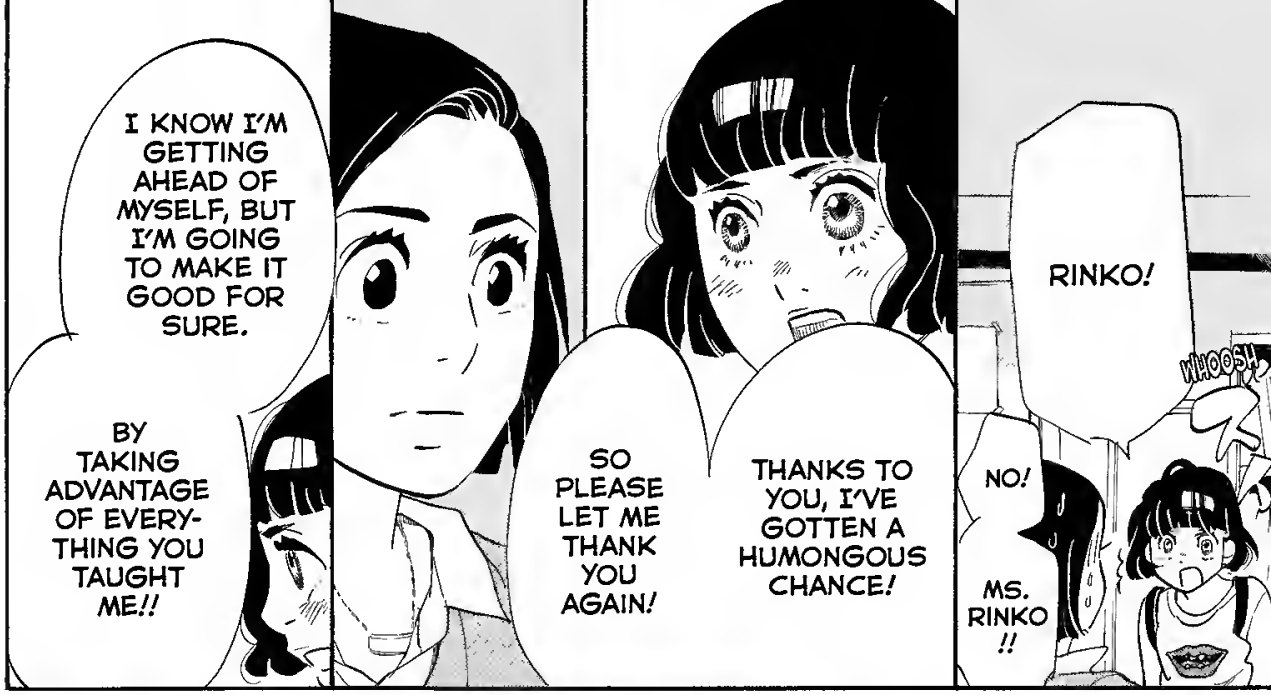
*MOTSUYAKI: A DISH OF SKEWERED AND GRILLED CHICKEN, PORK, OR BEEF OFFAL

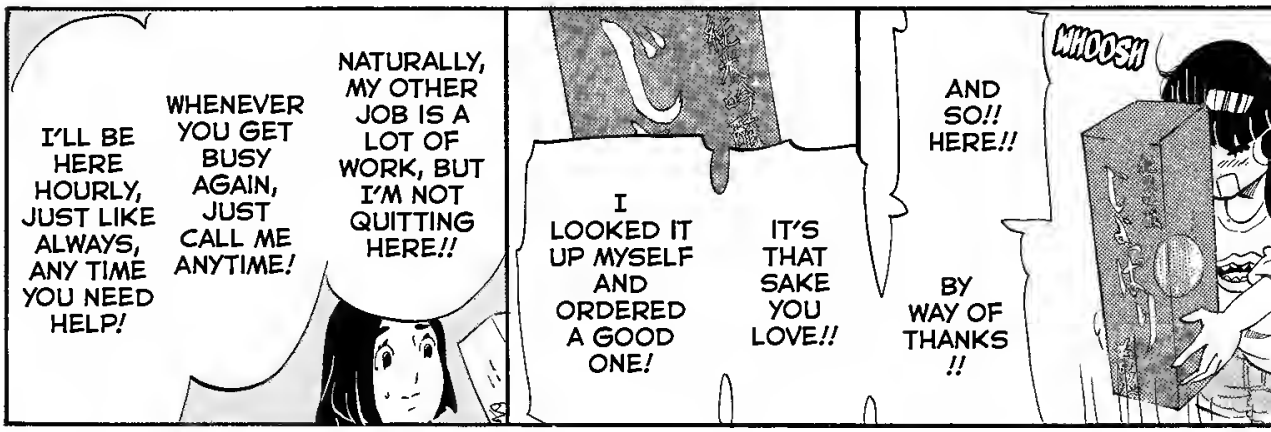
I SAID I HAVE.
BEEN MARRIED.
25.
WAIT, HOW OLD ARE YOU?!
NO WAY!!
WHAT ARE YOU, ONE OF THOSE YOUNG GANG-STERS IN CHIBA?
YOU MEAN YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN DIVORCED AT THAT AGE?!
HEY... HAS THAT BEEN... MADE PUBLIC?
BEATS ME.
PROB-ABLY NOT, RIGHT?
11° CRACK
BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY KIDS.
SO EVEN IF WORD GOT OUT, IT WOULDN'T BE A BIG–
OH, THAT LOOKS GREAT, SIR.
WOW, YOU'RE AWFULLY YOUNG TO HAVE A STRIKE AGAINST YOU, SONNY.
Wow, what a sur-prise!

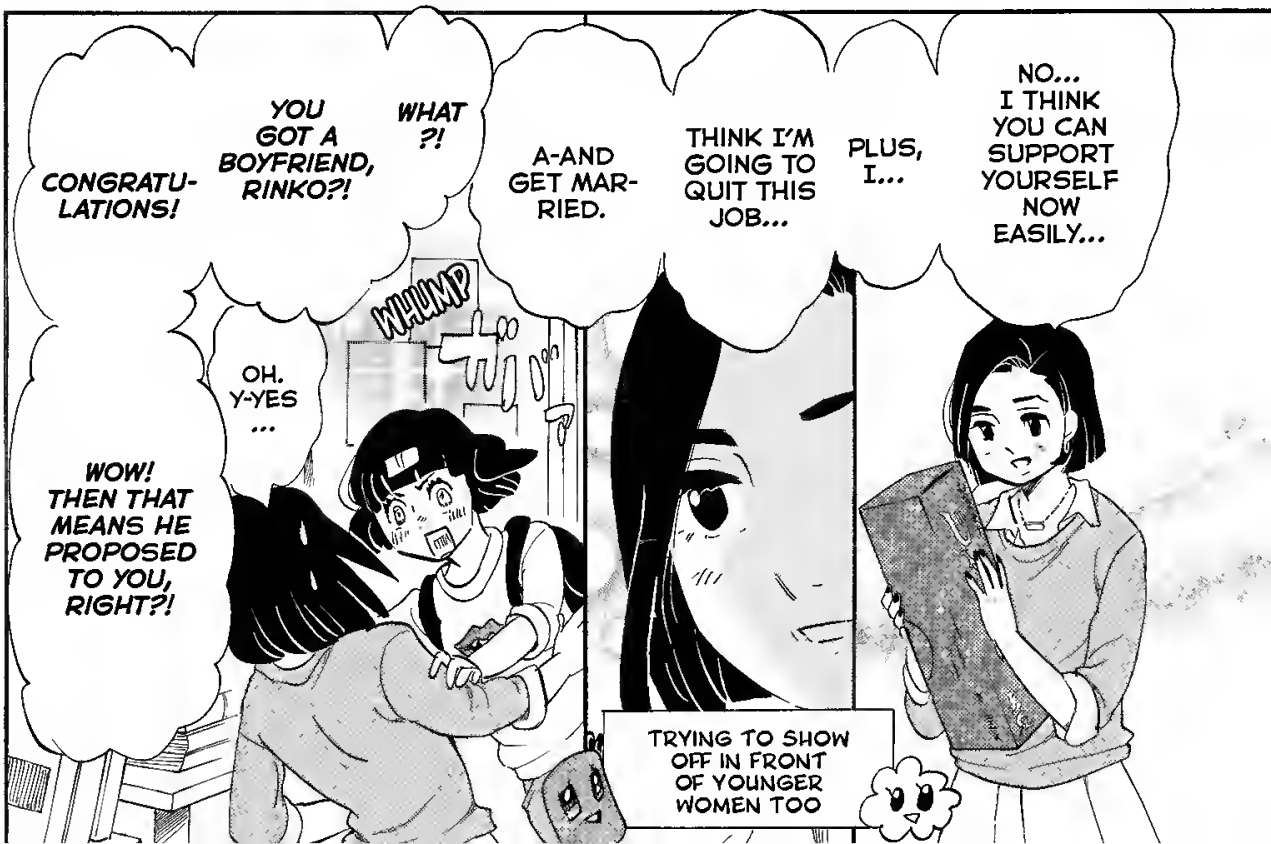
THINK
HUUUH?!
RINKO, YOU'RE SERIOUSLY LEAVING?!
YOU'RE LEAVING US IN THE LURCH THE SECOND YOU GOT A MAN!
WHAP
HERE'S MY MONEY.
THEY'RE HOLDING THE MEETING FOR EPISODE 4 AT OUR OFFICE.
MAMI'S FINALLY COMING IN AGAIN TOMORROW MORNING.
...
I'M GOING HOME.
Huh?!
THINK
OH REALLY?
THAT EXPLAINS IT.
THAT CLEARS UP EVERYTHING.
THINK
AND THEN THEY GOT SEPARATED RIGHT AFTER, SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?
THAT'S NOTHING TO BRAG ABOUT.
PFFT! IT WAS PROBABLY JUST SOME PLAY MARRIAGE BETWEEN TWO KIDS.
TWO IDIOTS GETTING MARRIED AT TWENTY.
HE'S BEEN MARRIED BEFORE, SO HE THINKS HE'S A VETERAN.
THAT'S WHY HE THINKS HE KNOWS EVERYTHING.

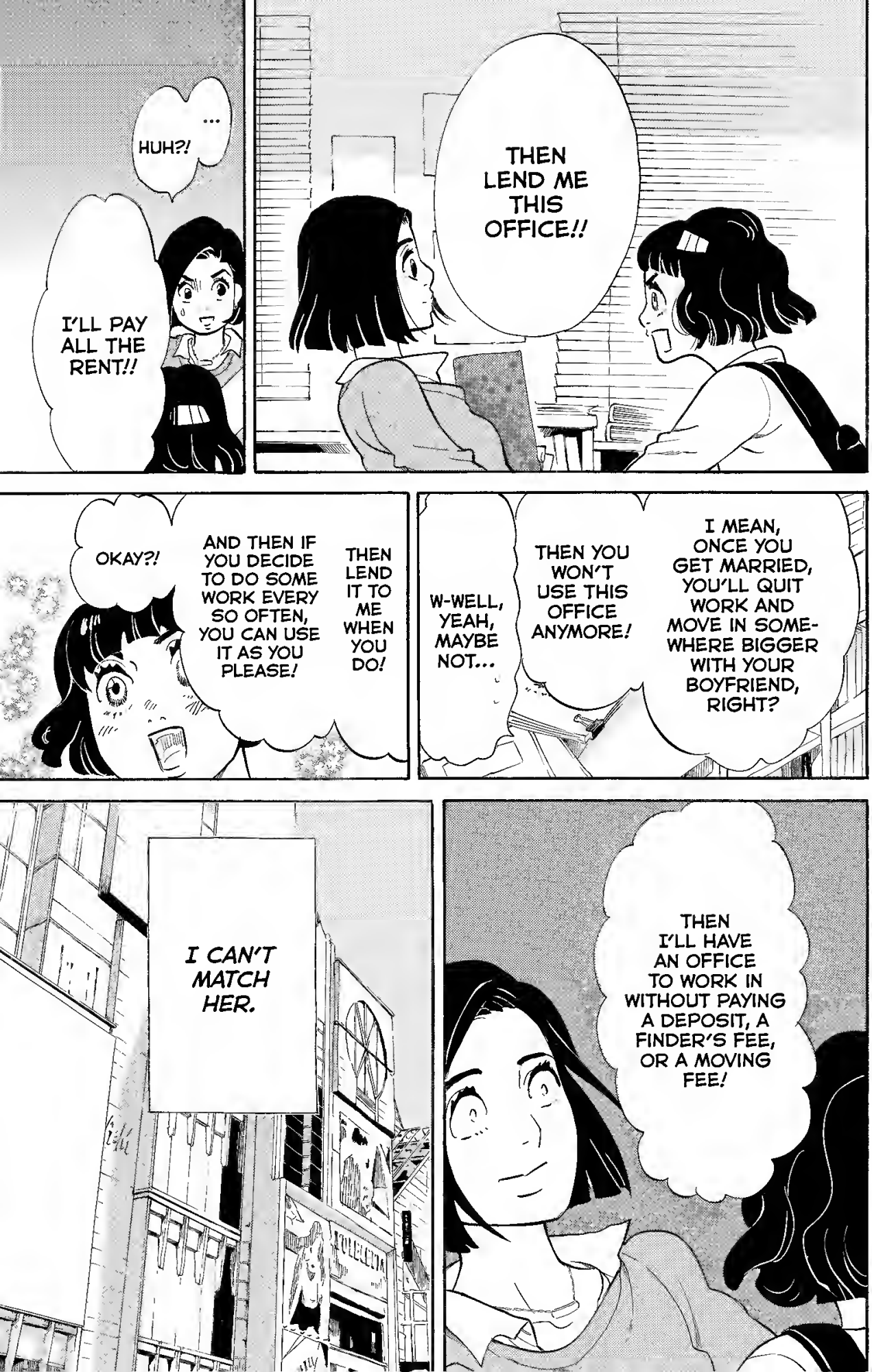
I'M NOT SOME YOUNG, IR-RESPONSIBLE CELEBRITY BRAT LIKE YOU.
246
I'M NOT LIKE YOU.
I'M AIMING FOR A MATURE, GROUNDED MARRIAGE THAT WON'T FAIL.
GOOOOD...
...MORN-ING!!
CHIRP
CHIRP
ﾁｭﾝ
ﾁｭﾝ

HUH? WELL ...
YOU KNOW HOW I'VE BEEN GOING TO WATCH THE SHOOTS WITH MR. HAYASAKA LATELY? FOR "FALSE MARRIAGE"?
W-WHAT BROUGHT THIS ON?
I WENT TO THE SALON YESTERDAY FOR AN IMAGE CHANGE! IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAD BLACK HAIR!
OH! DOES IT LOOK WEIRD?
HAVE WE MET? ...
HUH.
SO YOU WENT AND DYED IT... RIGHT AWAY?
CAN YOU BE-LIEVE IT?!
EEK!
I WISH I COULD SEE YOU WITH BLACK HAIR, MAMI. I BET IT'D LOOK GREAT ON YOU.
WHEN MR. HAYASAKA SAW THAT ACTRESS YOKO MAKI'S BLACK HAIR HE SAID...
...ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OKAY WITH THAT?
I MEAN, AS A HARAJUKU GAL, DIDN'T YOU PREFER BLONDE HAIR WITH PINK TIPS?
WELL, I DID, BUT...
WHEN MR. HAYASAKA SAID HE WANTED TO SEE IT...
I FIGURED IT MIGHT BE FUN TO GIVE IT A SHOT!
BUT I GUESS IT LOOKS WEIRD ON ME, HUH?
I'M NOT WORKING WITH THE SAME FOUNDATION AS THAT ACTRESS!
OH! ...
ANYWAY, RINKO!
BEFORE I USE THE OFFICE TODAY...
FWIP
AHAHA!
AHAHA!

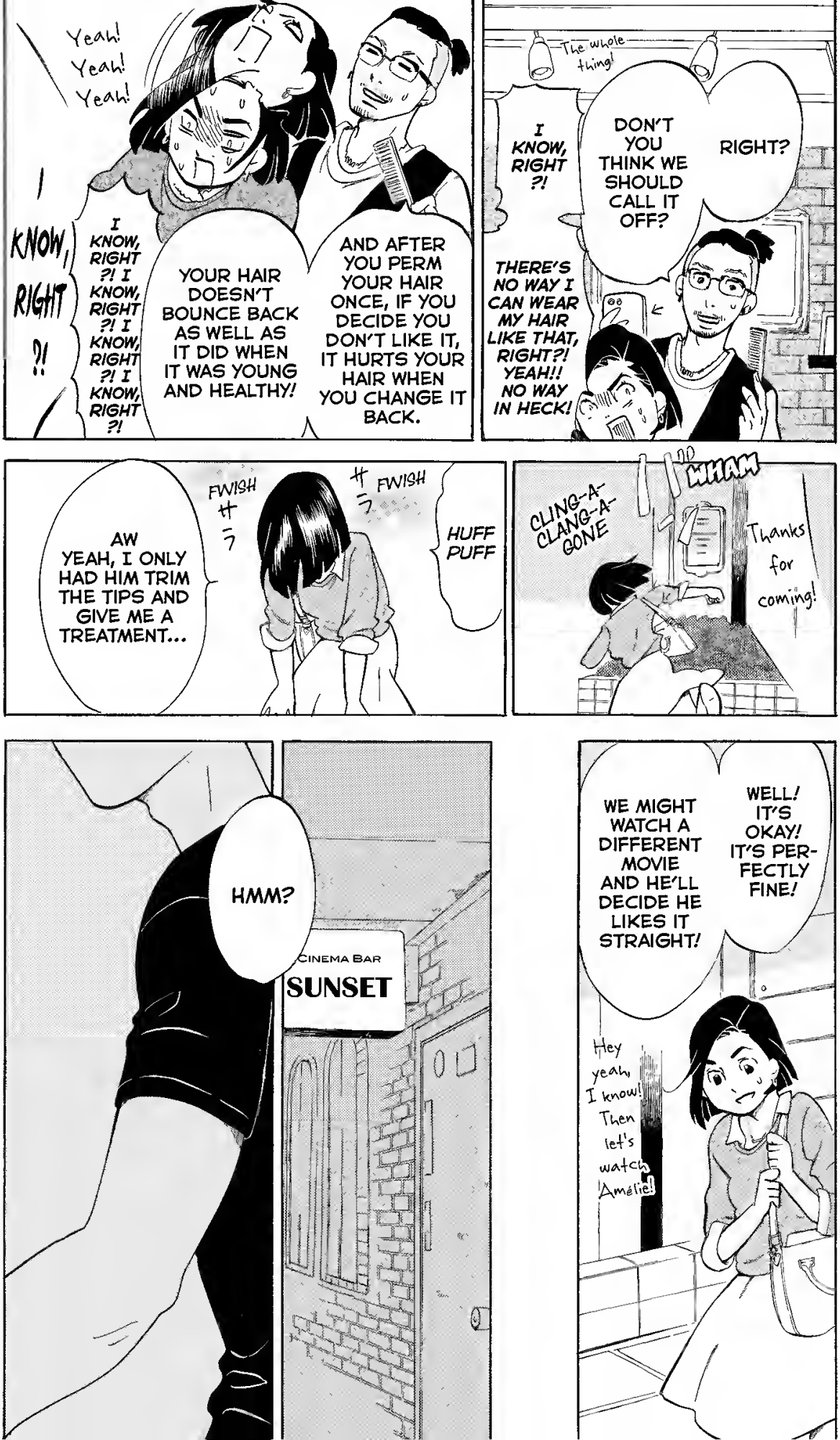

I KNOW I'M GETTING AHEAD OF MYSELF, BUT I'M GOING TO MAKE IT GOOD FOR SURE.
BY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EVERY-THING YOU TAUGHT ME!!
SO PLEASE LET ME THANK YOU AGAIN!
THANKS TO YOU, I'VE GOTTEN A HUMONGOUS CHANCE!
RINKO!
WHOOSH
NO!
MS. RINKO !!


I'LL BE HERE HOURLY, JUST LIKE ALWAYS, ANY TIME YOU NEED HELP!
WHENEVER YOU GET BUSY AGAIN, JUST CALL ME ANYTIME!
NATURALLY, MY OTHER JOB IS A LOT OF WORK, BUT I'M NOT QUITTING HERE!!
I LOOKED IT UP MYSELF AND ORDERED A GOOD ONE!
IT'S THAT SAKE YOU LOVE!!
AND SO!! HERE!!
BY WAY OF THANKS !!
WHOOSH


CONGRATU-LATIONS!
YOU GOT A BOYFRIEND, RINKO?!
WHAT ?!
A-AND GET MAR-RIED.
THINK I'M GOING TO QUIT THIS JOB...
PLUS, I...
NO... I THINK YOU CAN SUPPORT YOURSELF NOW EASILY...
WHUMP
OH. Y-YES ...
WOW! THEN THAT MEANS HE PROPOSED TO YOU, RIGHT?!
TRYING TO SHOW OFF IN FRONT OF YOUNGER WOMEN TOO

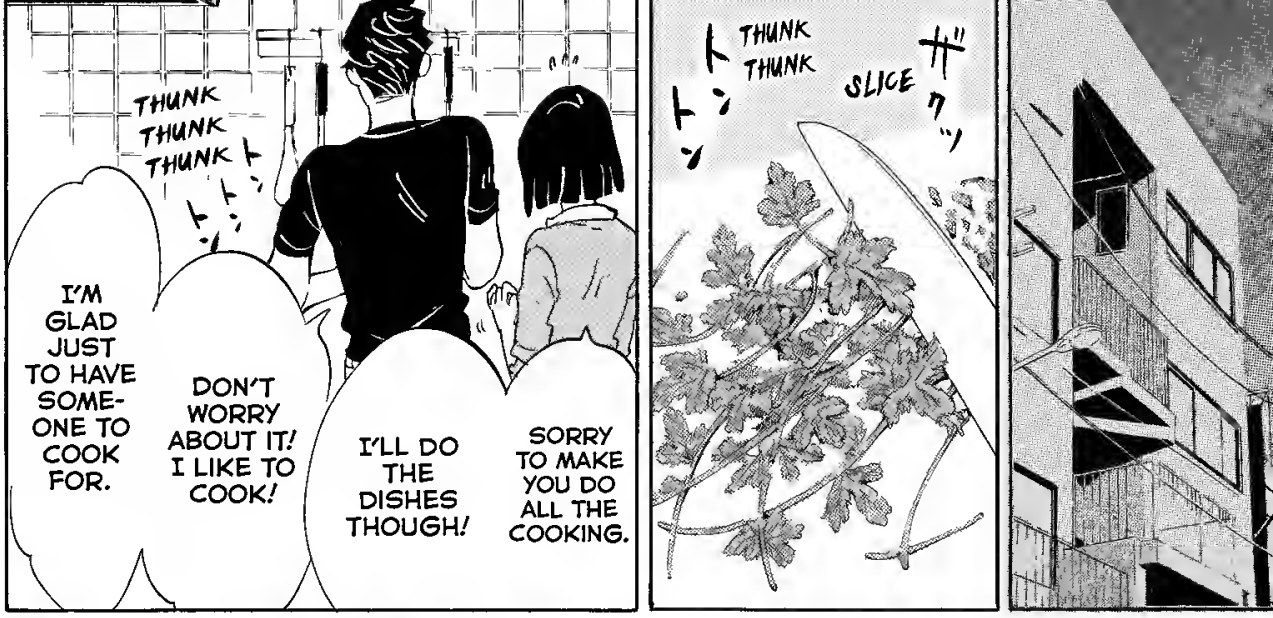

...
HUH?!
I'LL PAY ALL THE RENT!!
THEN LEND ME THIS OFFICE!!
OKAY?!
AND THEN IF YOU DECIDE TO DO SOME WORK EVERY SO OFTEN, YOU CAN USE IT AS YOU PLEASE!
THEN LEND IT TO ME WHEN YOU DO!
W-WELL, YEAH, MAYBE NOT...
THEN YOU WON'T USE THIS OFFICE ANYMORE!
I MEAN, ONCE YOU GET MARRIED, YOU'LL QUIT WORK AND MOVE IN SOMEWHERE BIGGER WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND, RIGHT?
I CAN'T MATCH HER.
THEN I'LL HAVE AN OFFICE TO WORK IN WITHOUT PAYING A DEPOSIT, A FINDER'S FEE, OR A MOVING FEE!

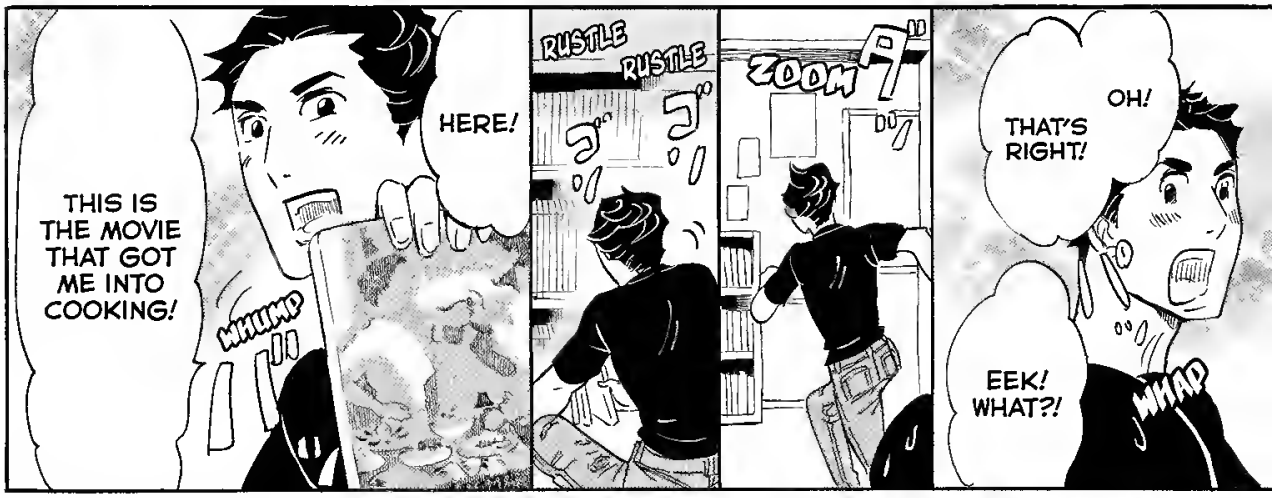
I JUST CAN'T MATCH THE FLEXIBILITY OF THESE YOUNGER GIRLS.
I CAN'T MATCH THAT GREED.
OR THAT CONFIDENCE THAT LET HER ASK TO USE MY OFFICE, KNOWING IT MIGHT TICK ME OFF...
...I CAN'T MATCH THAT EITHER.
THAT GIRL...
...COULD REALLY GO PLACES.
BUT I'VE GOTTA FOLLOW...
...HER EXAMPLE.
I'M GOING TO MARRY HIM, AFTER ALL.
nico HAIR SALON
I'VE GOTTA GET FLEXIBLY AMBITIOUS LIKE MAMI.
CLANG A CLANG
カラン コロン
WEL-COME!
NO...
WAIT...
...A...
MINUTE ...


Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!
I KNOW, RIGHT ?!
I KNOW, RIGHT ?! I KNOW, RIGHT ?! I KNOW, RIGHT ?!
YOUR HAIR DOESN'T BOUNCE BACK AS WELL AS IT DID WHEN IT WAS YOUNG AND HEALTHY!
AND AFTER YOU PERM YOUR HAIR ONCE, IF YOU DECIDE YOU DON'T LIKE IT, IT HURTS YOUR HAIR WHEN YOU CHANGE IT BACK.
The whole thing!
I KNOW, RIGHT ?!
DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD CALL IT OFF?
RIGHT?
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN WEAR MY HAIR LIKE THAT, RIGHT?! YEAH!! NO WAY IN HECK!
AW YEAH, I ONLY HAD HIM TRIM THE TIPS AND GIVE ME A TREATMENT...
FWISH
FWISH
HUFF PUFF
CLING-A-CLANG-A-GONE
KHAM
Thanks for coming!
HMM?
CINEMA BAR
SUNSET
WELL! IT'S OKAY! IT'S PERFECTLY FINE!
WE MIGHT WATCH A DIFFERENT MOVIE AND HE'LL DECIDE HE LIKES IT STRAIGHT!
Hey yeah, I know! Then let's watch Amélie!

Y-YEAH...
THAT'S RIGHT...
I WAS... SO BUSY TODAY... HAHA...
OH, I SEE. I SEE.
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO GO TO THE SALON?
SORRY, YOU KNOW, FOR MAKING SUCH A SELFISH REQUEST.
PHEW
N-NO, I'M SORRY TOO...
OH, HEY! HERE...
RUSTLE
I'VE GOT A PRESENT FOR YOU. TO CELEBRATE US.
HUH?!
WHAT COULD IT BE?
BA-DUMP
HERE IT IS.
HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

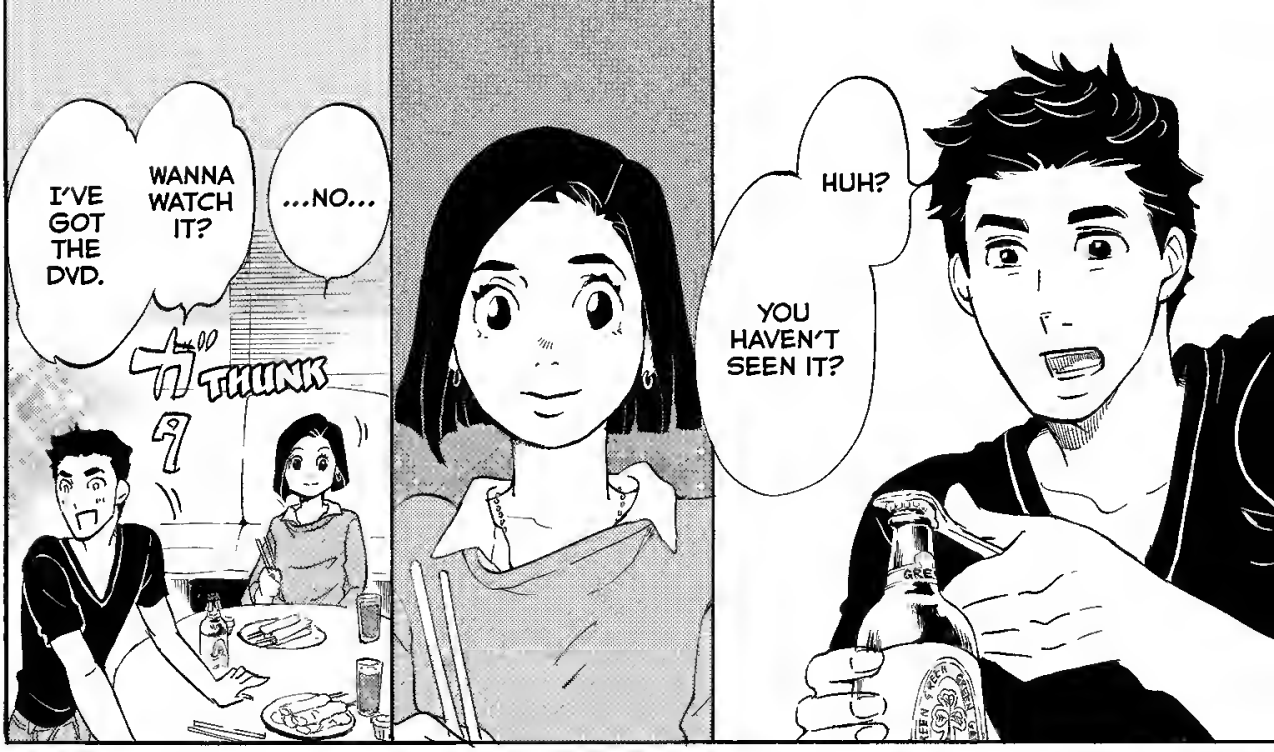
CAN YOU STAY UNTIL THE BAR CLOSES TONIGHT, RINKO?
YEP!
I TOTALLY CAN'T WAIT! I'LL WATCH IT AS SOON AS I CAN!
WHAT? REALLY?!
YEAH, DEFINITELY WATCH IT!
THAT'S ONE OF MY TOP FILMS FROM 2014!
GREAT!
I HAVEN'T SEEN IT!
TH-THANKS!
WHAP
OH!
WEL-COME!
WHAP
YOU CAN MAKE THOSE?! THAT'S AWE-SOME !!
I'LL MAKE FRESH SPRING ROLLS AT MY PLACE!
THEN LET'S GO HOME TO-GETHER!
KER-CHUNK
I'M IN HEAVEN ...
HEHEH ...


THUNK THUNK THUNK
I'M GLAD JUST TO HAVE SOME-ONE TO COOK FOR.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT! I LIKE TO COOK!
I'LL DO THE DISHES THOUGH!
SORRY TO MAKE YOU DO ALL THE COOKING.
THUNK THUNK
SLICE

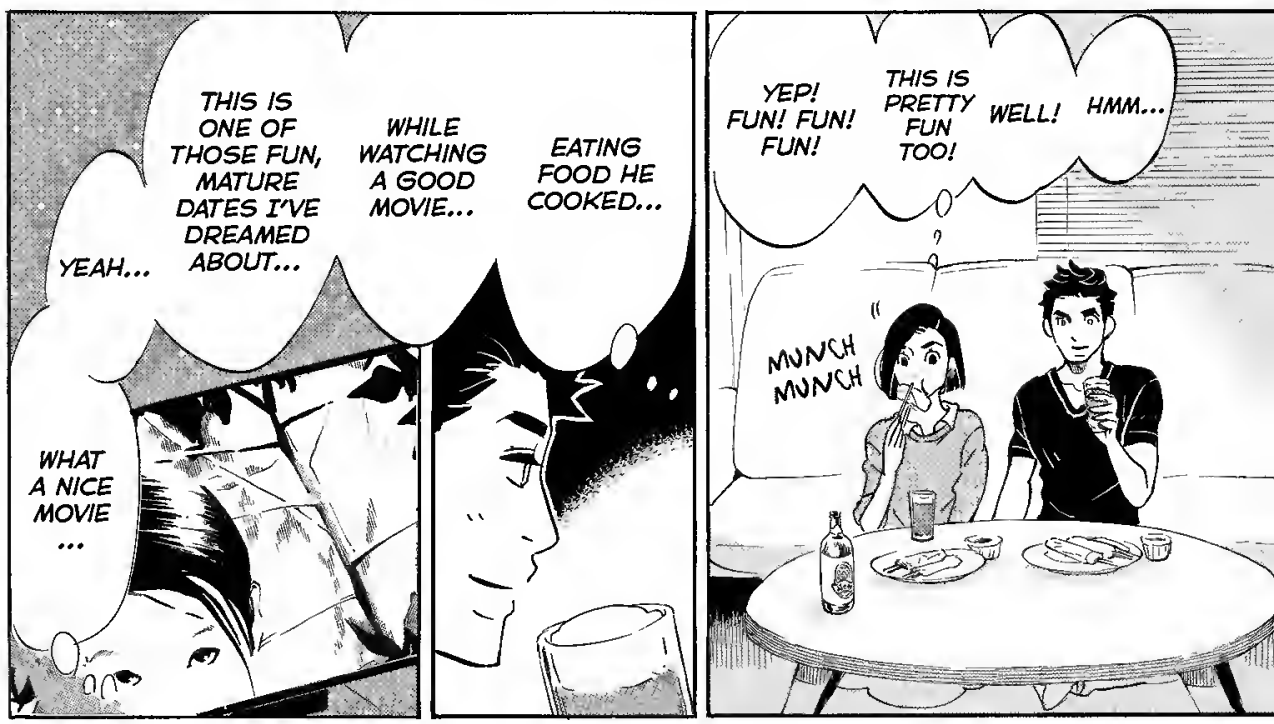

THIS IS THE MOVIE THAT GOT ME INTO COOKING!
HERE!
RUSTLE RUSTLE
ZOOM
OH! THAT'S RIGHT!
EEK! WHAT?!

HUH?!
I GUESS?
I-I THINK I'M GOOD FOR NOW...
ACTU-ALLY...
OH... YEAH...
YOU DON'T MIND WATCHING IT WITH SUBTITLES, RIGHT?
YOU CAN WATCH WHILE I COOK!
BEEP
KER-CHUNK

THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S WHAT I'D PREFER!
YEP!
OH YEAH! I GUESS SO!
OH, REALLY ?
THAT'S ALL.
AND TALK AND STUFF.
I'D RATHER WATCH YOU COOK...
OH, I MEAN, SINCE WE'RE HERE TOGETHER...
ARGH!
THAT LOOKS SO GOOD!!
WOW! THAT'S AMAZING!
THEN I'LL MESMERIZE YOU WITH MY BEAUTIFUL KNIFE SKILLS! HUP!
ALL RIGHT!
SHUNK SHUNK
WHAT'S THAT? ANOTHER MOVIE?
OH, SORRY.
...
TWITCH
WELL, GREEN PAPAYAS AREN'T SOLD AROUND HERE.
OH, BUT THE SALAD THAT APPEARED IN "THE SCENT OF GREEN PAPAYA"...
AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THE INGREDIENTS.
VIETNAMESE COOKING IS ACTUALLY PRETTY SIMPLE.
SO YOU ACTUALLY CAN MAKE THESE AT HOME!

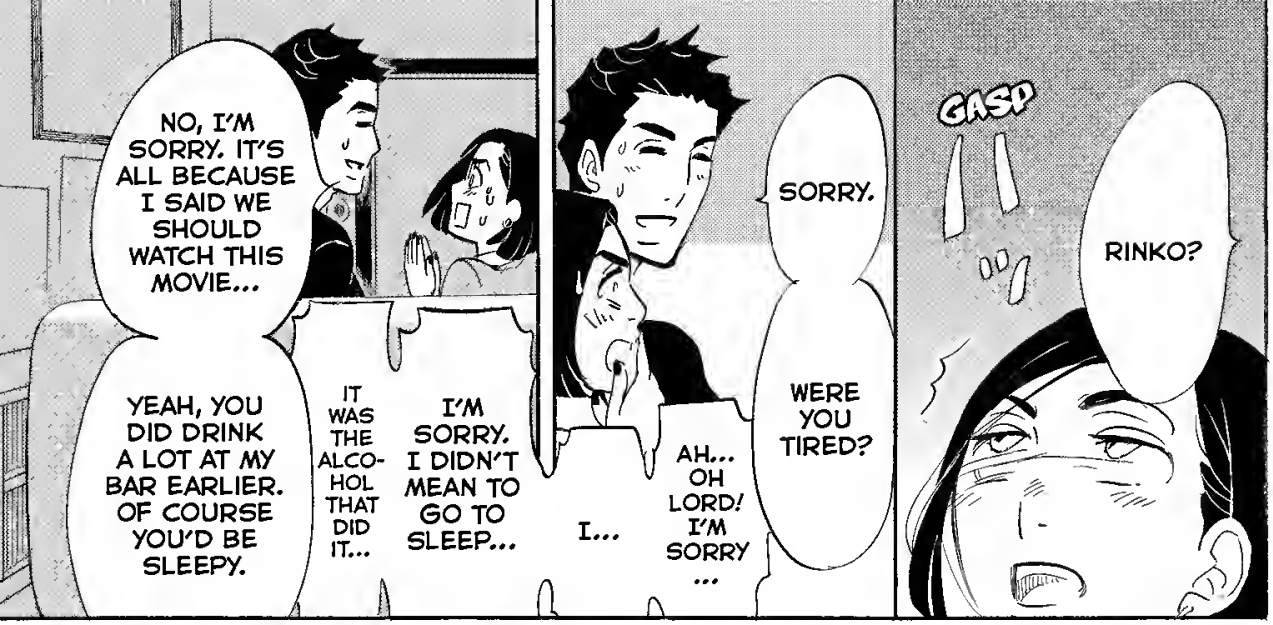

I'VE GOT THE DVD.
WANNA WATCH IT?
...NO...
THUNK
HUH?
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT?

JING-A-LING
THE SCENT OF GREEN PAPAYA

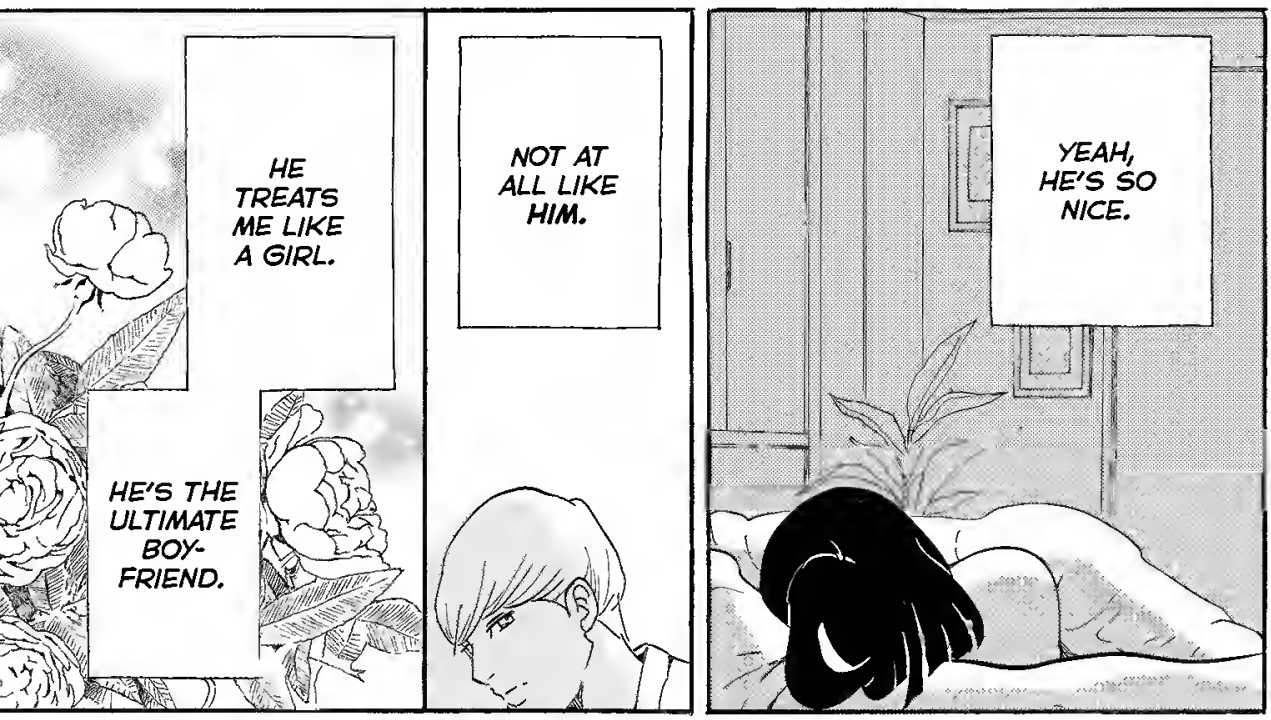

YEAH...
THIS IS ONE OF THOSE FUN, MATURE DATES I'VE DREAMED ABOUT...
WHILE WATCHING A GOOD MOVIE...
EATING FOOD HE COOKED...
WHAT A NICE MOVIE ...
YEP! FUN! FUN! FUN!
THIS IS PRETTY FUN TOO!
WELL!
HMM...
MUNCH MUNCH

AHA!
THAT BOY'S CUTE!
SHH!
...
UM...
SO HE'S ONE OF THOSE "NO TALKING DURING THE MOVIE" PEOPLE...
...I GUESS?
BUT AT THE BAR...
...WE TALKED WHILE WE WATCHED, DIDN'T WE?
BECAUSE I WAS A CUSTOMER AND IT WAS THE BAR?
BECAUSE IT WAS AT WORK?
BECAUSE IT'S A BAR WHERE YOU HAVE FUN TALKING ABOUT MOVIES?
GRUMBLE
GRUMBLE
YOU KNOW ...
THIS MOVIE'S KIND OF BORING...
I'M GETTING SLEEPY...
BUT I DON'T THINK HE'D LIKE IT IF I FELL ASLEEP...
IF I DID FALL ASLEEP ...
HE'S A NICE GUY, SO HE PROBABLY WOULDN'T GET MAD ...
BUT I BET HE'D BE DISAPPOINTED ...
YARGH !!
SHUNK

SQUEEZE
DON'T SLEEP, RINKO! STAB YOURSELF WITH KAORI'S NAILS! DON'T SLEEP! DON'T SLEEP! DON'T SLEEP!
BEAR WITH IT! BEAR WITH IT!
YOU CAN'T LET THIS GUY GET AWAY!
IT'S A MIRACLE YOU EVEN MET SUCH A HIGH-SPEC GUY!
AND A MIRACLE HE FELL FOR A 33-YEAR-OLD LIKE YOU!
YOU'VE GOT THREE BALLS WITH TWO OUTS AND IT'S COMIN' IN STRAIGHT AS CAN BE!
ZOOM
IF YOU CAN'T HIT A HOMER OFF THIS, HOW CAN YOU FACE THE TOKYO OLYMPICS?!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE CAREFUL! CAREFUL!
TAKE THIS BALL CAREFULLY!
KA-PING
YEEEAAH!
THE WHAT-IFFERS' CLEANUP HITTER KAMATA HAS DONE IT!
IT'S A GAME-CHANGING HOME-RUN!
LIVE
COMMENTARY
THIS IS HER FIRST HOMERUN SINCE SHE TRIED OUT FROM THE INDUSTRIAL LEAGUES AND BECAME A MEMBER OF THE WHAT-IFFERS !!
SHE SHOWED THOSE YOUNG #1 DRAFT PICK HIGH SCHOOL GRADS WHAT THIRTY-SOMETHINGS ARE MADE OF!


GASP
RINKO?
SORRY.
WERE YOU TIRED?
AH... OH LORD! I'M SORRY...
I...
I'M SORRY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO GO TO SLEEP...
IT WAS THE ALCOHOL THAT DID IT...
NO, I'M SORRY. IT'S ALL BECAUSE I SAID WE SHOULD WATCH THIS MOVIE...
YEAH, YOU DID DRINK A LOT AT MY BAR EARLIER. OF COURSE YOU'D BE SLEEPY.

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! THE ALCOHOL!
(BIG LIE) I ALWAYS GET SLEEPY WHEN I DRINK!
ALL RIGHT! THEN LET'S GO TO BED FOR THE NIGHT!
YOU CAN SPEND THE NIGHT, CAN'T YOU?
Y-YEAH!
I'LL LET YOU SLEEP ON MY ARM ALL NIGHT...
OKAY?

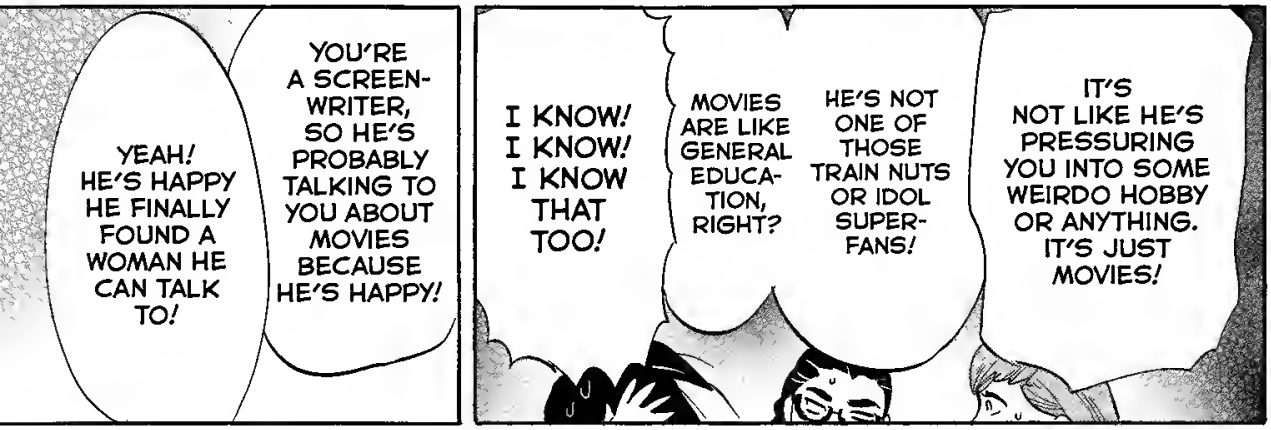

YEAH, HE'S SO NICE.
NOT AT ALL LIKE HIM.
HE TREATS ME LIKE A GIRL.
HE'S THE ULTIMATE BOY-FRIEND.

NN...
THAT SMELLS GOOD...
OH. YOU AWAKE?
BREAK-FAST IS ALMOST READY!
RUSTLE
CLACK CLACK CLACK
CHIRP
CHIRP
HERE. DIG IN.
IT LOOKS GREAT!
YOU CAN MAKE THAT TOO?
WOW!
HUH ?!
IT'S SIMPLE! EASY AS PIE!
CLACK CLACK
DO YOU LIKE THAT?
EGGS BENE-DICT.
WHAT ARE YOU MAKING?
WOW ...
RINKO.
THE YOLK'S STILL RUNNY!
WOW.
OH...
CLACK CLACK
...
WOW!
YOU DID!
WASN'T THAT INCRED-IBLE?
LIKE, "YOU CAN SERIOUSLY MAKE THAT WHEN YOU'RE 11"?!
SO I STARTED PRACTIC-ING AND PERFECTED MY HOL-LANDAISE SAUCE.
WHEN I SAW "SOME-WHERE," IT MADE ME WANT TO MAKE IT.

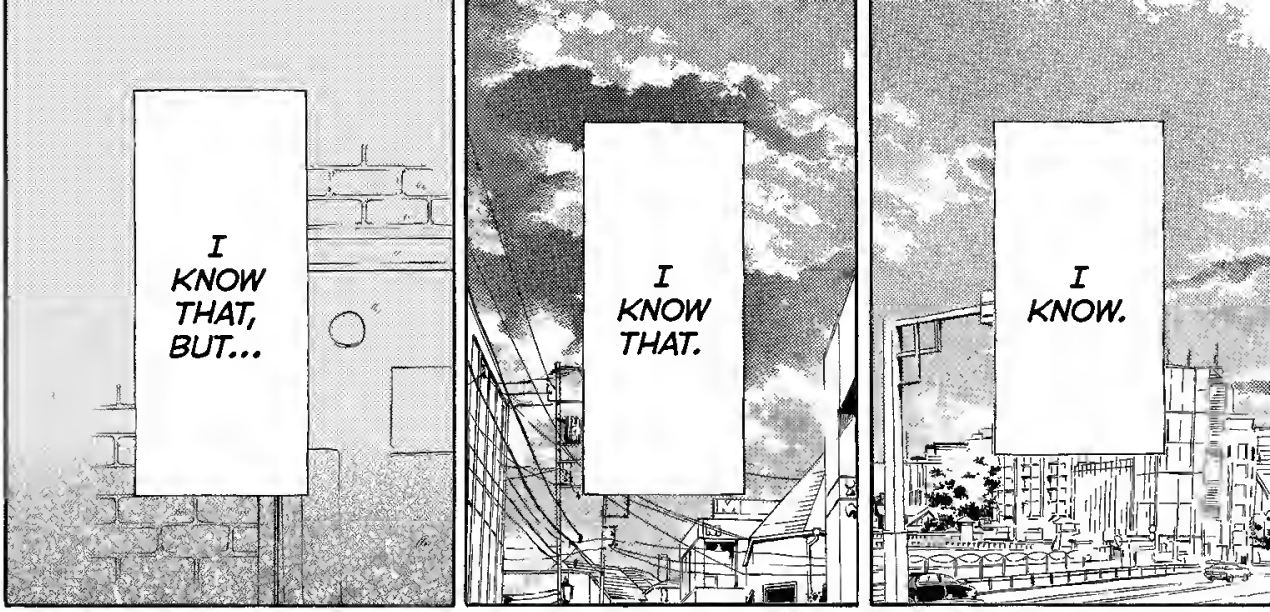
DID YOU SEE IT?
THAT MOVIE.
I... THINK ...
...I DID?
OH! REALLY?! I KNEW IT!
I WAS SURE YOU FOLLOWED SOFIA COPPOLA!
I'LL BET ALL THE FEMALE SCREENWRITERS LOVE HER!
YEAH.
I... GUESS SO?
OH! THIS IS GREAT!
OH, RINKO?
CLINK
CLINK
DO YOU HAVE TIME TO GO TO THE SALON TODAY?
CLINK
CLINK カチャ カチャ
NONBEE
酒処 呑んべ

THIS IS KIND OF... A LITTLE...
TH-
TOO MUCH?
SO HE STILL HASN'T ...
...GIVEN UP ON YOU GETTING THAT PERM?
OH...
WELL, THERE'S THAT TOO... THERE'S THE HAIR THING TOO...
BUT, LIKE, MORE IMPOR-TANT-LY...
WHAT IS IT?! SUM IT UP REAL QUICK FOR US!
WELL, HE KIND OF TALKS ABOUT MOVIES ALL THE TIME. AND THAT WOULD BE FINE AND ALL, BUT HE TALKS LIKE I'VE SEEN ALL THESE MOVIES TOO, AND IT'S KIND OF ROUGH.
HUH?
SO WHAT? YOU CAN BEAR THAT.
I MEAN, HE DOES RUN A MOVIE BAR, RIGHT?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIS HOBBY ALSO BEING HIS JOB?
WELL, YEAH, THAT'S TRUE, BUT...

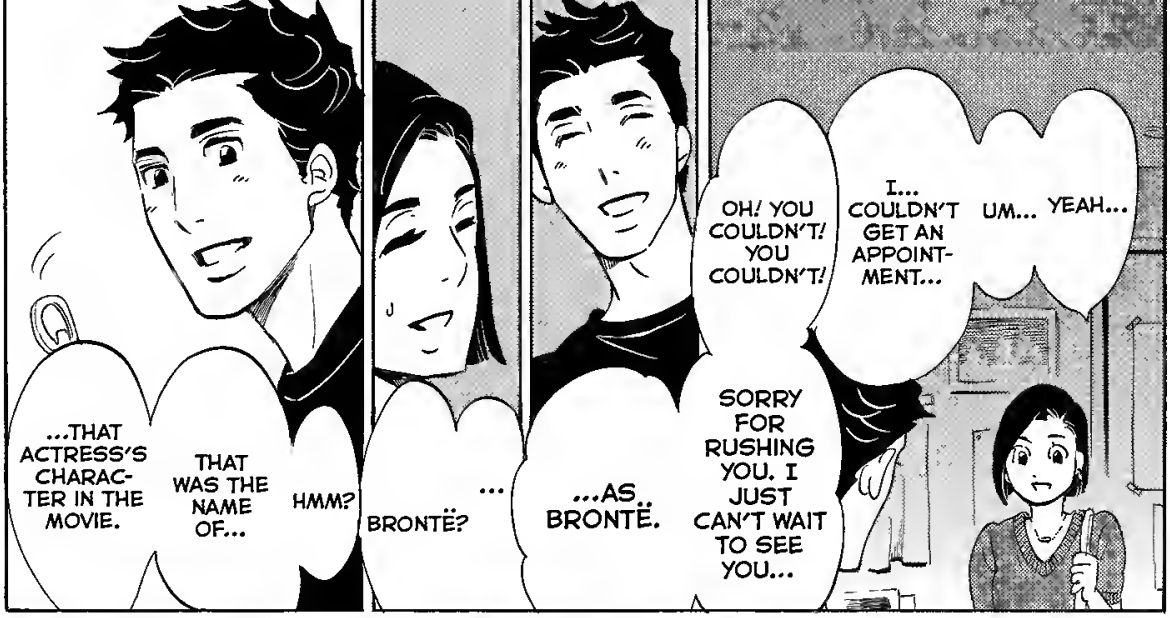
YARGH!
ALL I'VE GOT TO DO IS DEAL WITH THAT PART...
NO! I KNOW! YOU'RE RIGHT!
IN FACT, I CAN JUST GET USED TO IT!
THEN DEAL WITH IT!
IS THERE ANYTHING WRONG WITH HIM BESIDES ALL THIS MOVIE TALK?
NOTHING.
HE'S SWEET, HE COOKS, HE KEEPS HIS PLACE CLEAN.


YOU'RE A SCREENWRITER, SO HE'S PROBABLY TALKING TO YOU ABOUT MOVIES BECAUSE HE'S HAPPY!
YEAH! HE'S HAPPY HE FINALLY FOUND A WOMAN HE CAN TALK TO!
I KNOW! I KNOW! I KNOW THAT TOO!
MOVIES ARE LIKE GENERAL EDUCATION, RIGHT?
HE'S NOT ONE OF THOSE TRAIN NUTS OR IDOL SUPERFANS!
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S PRESSURING YOU INTO SOME WEIRDO HOBBY OR ANYTHING. IT'S JUST MOVIES!

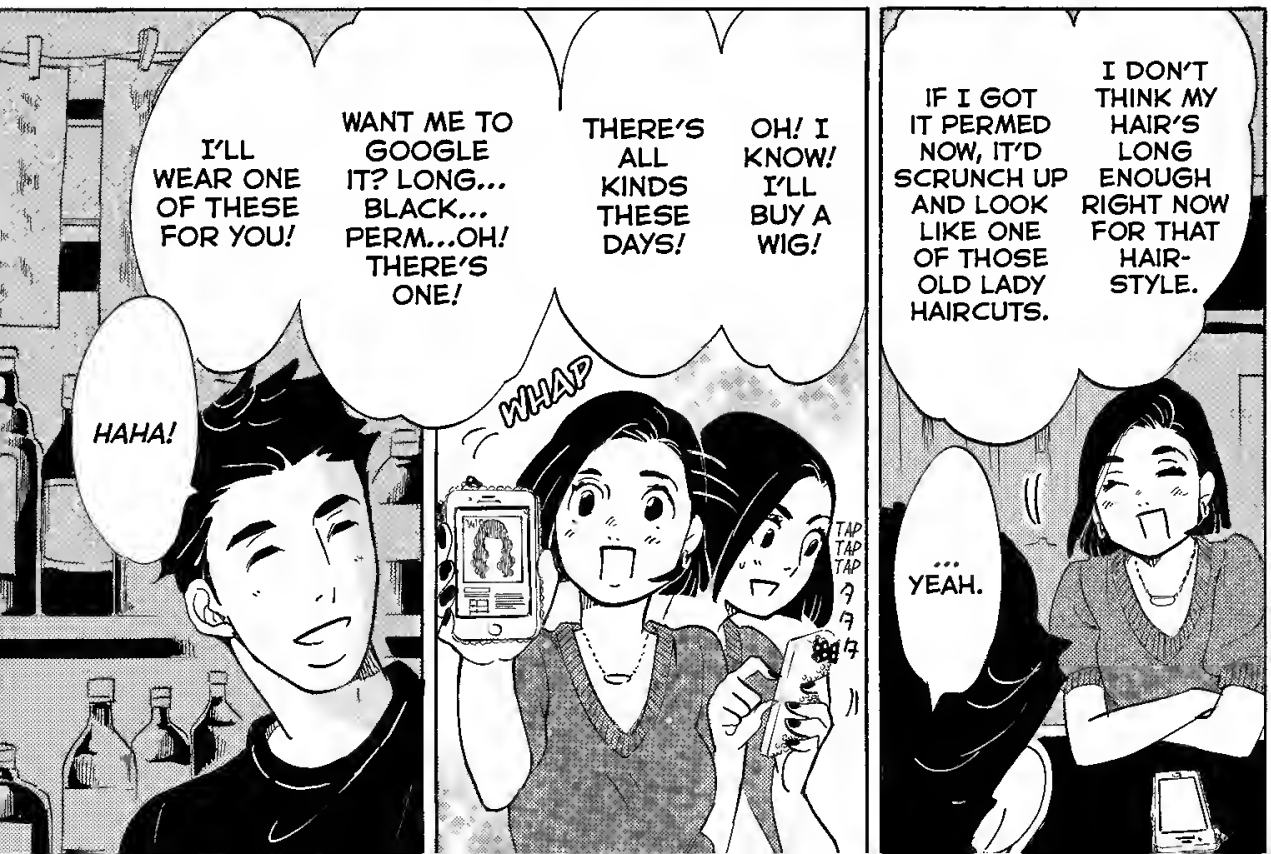
SHOULDN'T YOU BE HAPPY? YOU CAN WATCH ANY AMOUNT OF MOVIES WITH HIM, RIGHT?
THAT'S RIGHT. AND YOU LIKE MOVIES TOO. ISN'T THAT WHY YOU STARTED WRITING?
IF YOU CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR MAN HAVING A HOBBY OR TWO, YOU'LL NEVER GET MARRIED.
UGH...
I KNOW THAT ALREADY. YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME...
BUT, BUT, BUT!
BUT! BUT!!
YEAH, I KNOW ALL THAT TOO!!
RINKO.
YOU'RE ACTING TOO SELFISH.


I KNOW THAT, BUT...
I KNOW THAT.
I KNOW.

YOUR HAIR...
HUH?


UM... YEAH...
I... COULDN'T GET AN APPOINT-MENT...
OH! YOU COULDN'T! YOU COULDN'T!
SORRY FOR RUSHING YOU. I JUST CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU...
...AS.. BRONTË.
...
BRONTË?
HMM?
THAT WAS THE NAME OF...
...THAT ACTRESS'S CHARAC-TER IN THE MOVIE.

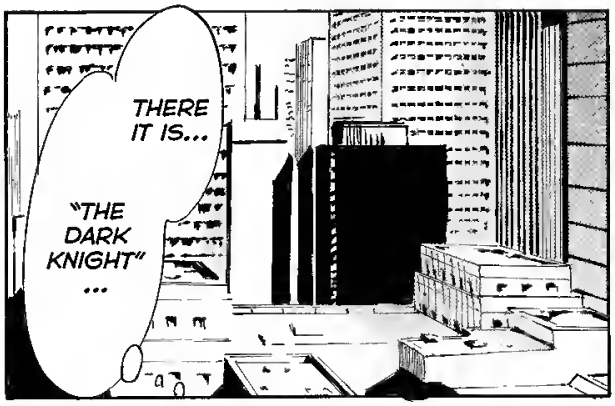
DON'T YOU RE-MEMBER?
...
HEY.
I WAS THINK-ING.
HMM?
THUNK

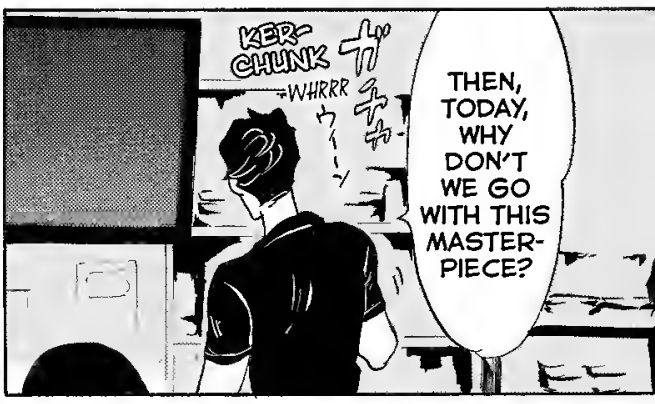

I DON'T THINK MY HAIR'S LONG ENOUGH RIGHT NOW FOR THAT HAIR-STYLE.
IF I GOT IT PERMED NOW, IT'D SCRUNCH UP AND LOOK LIKE ONE OF THOSE OLD LADY HAIRCUTS.
... YEAH.
OH! I KNOW! I'LL BUY A WIG!
THERE'S ALL KINDS THESE DAYS!
WANT ME TO GOOGLE IT? LONG... BLACK... PERM...OH! THERE'S ONE!
I'LL WEAR ONE OF THESE FOR YOU!
HAHA!
WHAP
TAP TAP TAP

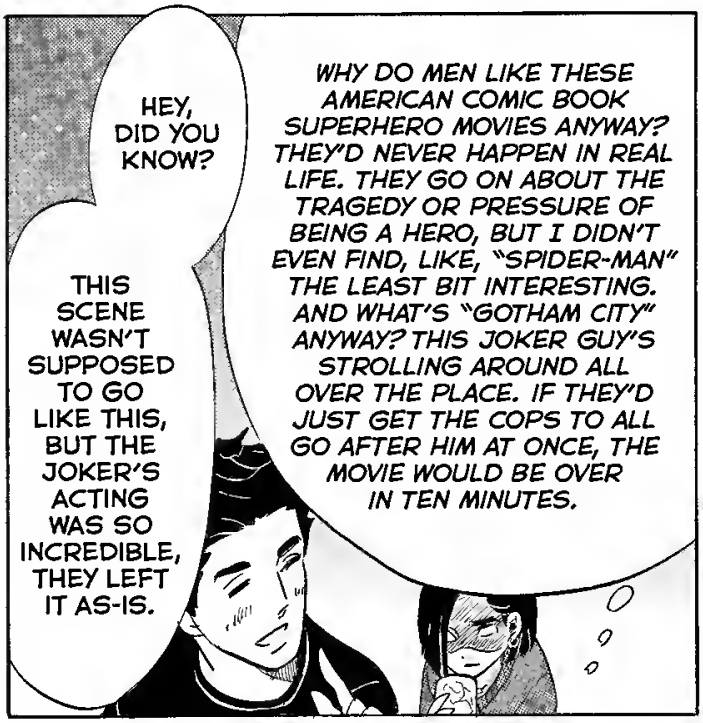
THAT'S GOING TOO FAR.
SAY, RINKO.
I KNOW.
HOW WAS THAT DVD I LENT YOU YESTER-DAY?
I REALLY DO KNOW.
SORRY.
I HAVEN'T WATCHED IT YET.
OH! YOU HAVEN'T !
NOPE! SORRY!
HA HA!
THAT'S FINE! THAT'S FINE! WATCH IT WHEN YOU HAVE TIME!
ALL RIGHT! THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT TO WATCH TODAY?

SORRY. WE DON'T KEEP ANY TV STUFF HERE.
HUH?!
I WANT TO WATCH THE "SEX AND THE CITY" MOVIE!
...
HMM...
SORRY. I DON'T WATCH MOVIES LIKE THAT.
THERE WERE TWO OF THEM!
I'M TALKING ABOUT THE MOVIE! THE FILM THEY MADE BASED ON THE TV SERIES!
HUH?
I GUESS MEN DON'T REALLY WATCH THAT KIND OF MOVIE, HUH?
I KNOW.
NOPE.
I REALLY DO KNOW.
...
OH.
YEAH.

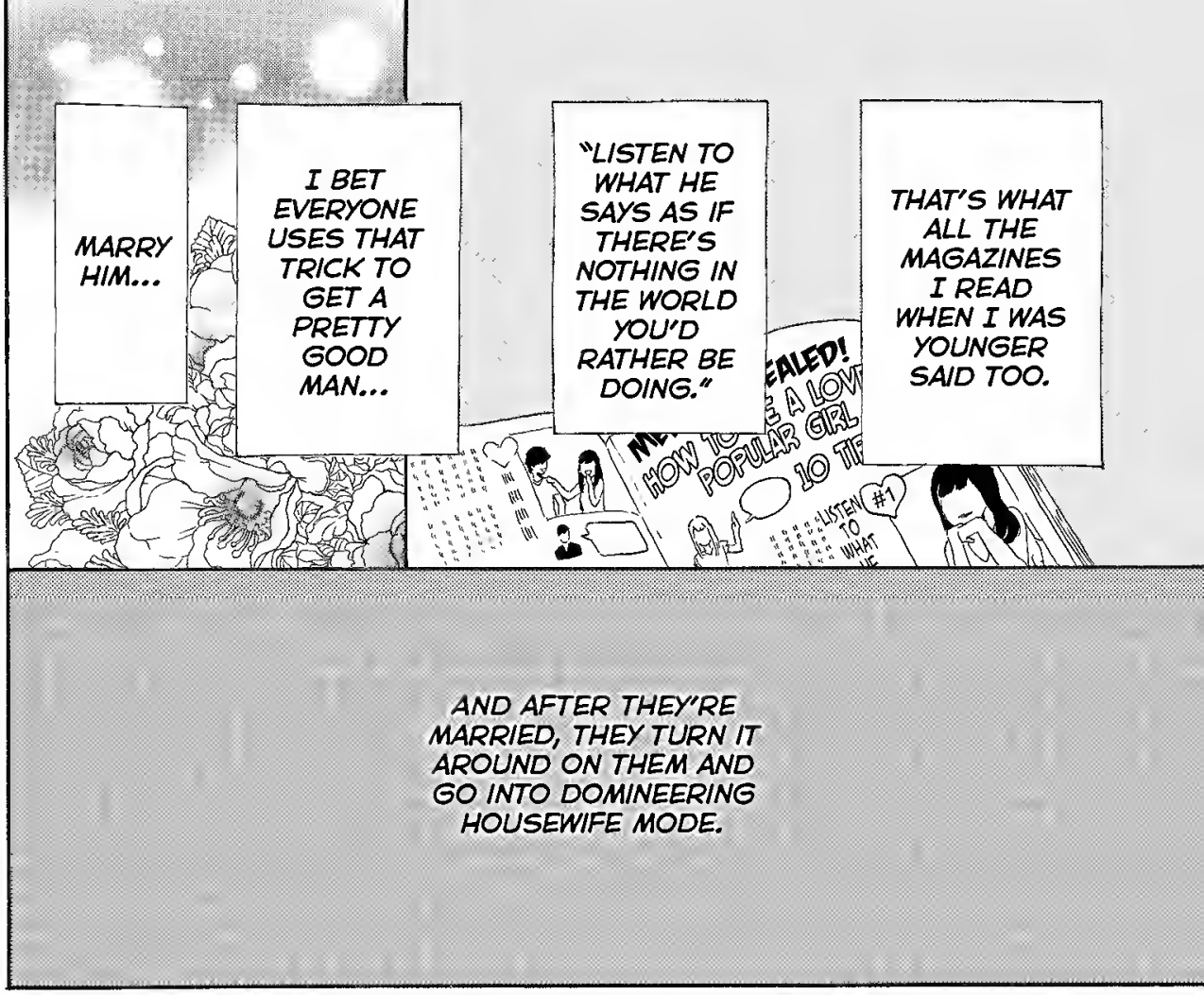
BUT I CAN'T BEAR IT.






HEY, DID YOU KNOW?
THIS SCENE WASN'T SUPPOSED TO GO LIKE THIS, BUT THE JOKER'S ACTING WAS SO INCREDIBLE, THEY LEFT IT AS-IS.
WHY DO MEN LIKE THESE AMERICAN COMIC BOOK SUPERHERO MOVIES ANYWAY? THEY'D NEVER HAPPEN IN REAL LIFE. THEY GO ON ABOUT THE TRAGEDY OR PRESSURE OF BEING A HERO, BUT I DIDN'T EVEN FIND, LIKE, "SPIDER-MAN" THE LEAST BIT INTERESTING. AND WHAT'S "GOTHAM CITY" ANYWAY? THIS JOKER GUY'S STROLLING AROUND ALL OVER THE PLACE. IF THEY'D JUST GET THE COPS TO ALL GO AFTER HIM AT ONCE, THE MOVIE WOULD BE OVER IN TEN MINUTES.

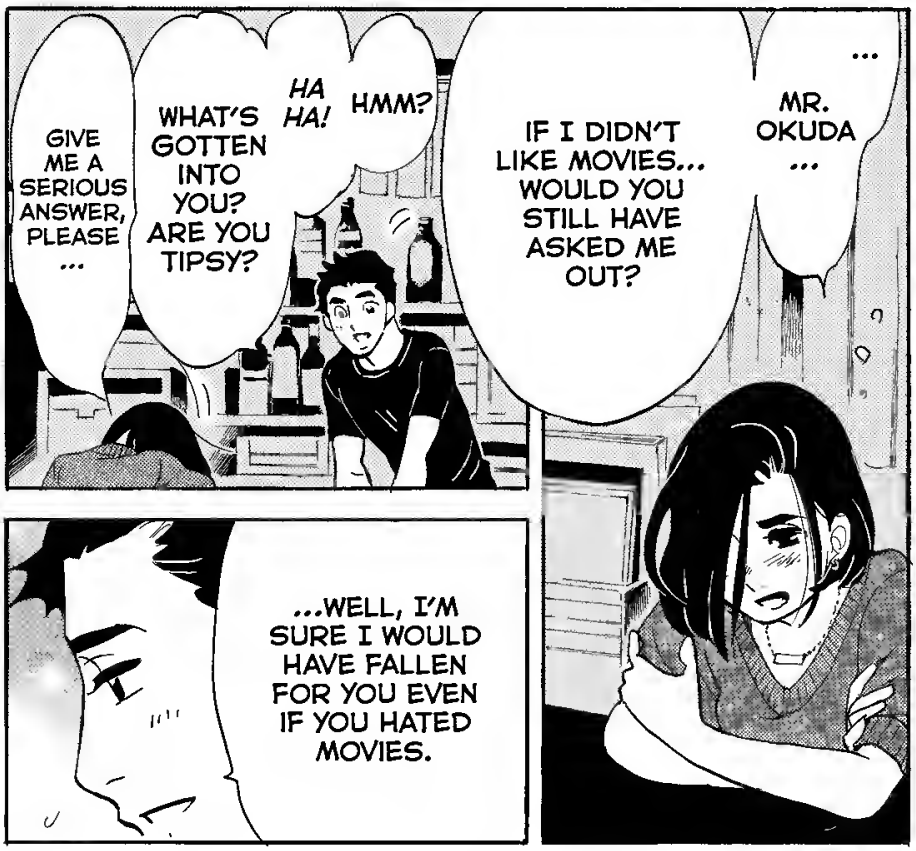
HAD I KNOWN IT WOULD TURN OUT LIKE THIS, I WOULD'VE GONE TO NONBEE TO DRINK HOPPY AND CHAT WITH KAORI AND KOYUKI...
SIGH. WHAT A WASTE OF TIME.
I'VE GOTTA DRINK.
GULP
GULP
GULP
AH, IT'S NO USE. I CAN'T BEAR WATCH-ING THIS FOR TWO HOURS.
WOW. REALLY. (MONO-TONE)
THAT WOULD'VE BEEN 100 TIMES MORE FUN THAN THIS.
OR MARATHON MY "SEX AND THE CITY" DVDS AT HOME.
ALWAYS WORRY ABOUT HIS NEEDS.
TALK ABOUT WHAT HE WANTS TO TALK ABOUT.
NO MATTER HOW BORING IT IS, ALWAYS ACT INTERESTED IN WHAT HE'S SAYING.
THIS IS WHAT IT'S LIKE GOING OUT WITH A MAN.
OH.
BUT NOW I REMEM-BER.


MARRY HIM...
I BET EVERYONE USES THAT TRICK TO GET A PRETTY GOOD MAN...
"LISTEN TO WHAT HE SAYS AS IF THERE'S NOTHING IN THE WORLD YOU'D RATHER BE DOING."
THAT'S WHAT ALL THE MAGAZINES I READ WHEN I WAS YOUNGER SAID TOO.
#1
AND AFTER THEY'RE MARRIED, THEY TURN IT AROUND ON THEM AND GO INTO DOMINEERING HOUSEWIFE MODE.

AND THAT'S WHAT EVERYONE CALLS "A WOMAN'S HAPPINESS."

THAT'S WHY WE CAN'T GET MARRIED.
I KNOW THAT, BUT I JUST CAN'T BEAR IT.
THERE YOU ARE...
THAT MAKEUP LOOKS PERFECT ON YOU.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF THAT'S A NICE PARODY OF HITOSHI UEKI'S "SUDARA BUSHI" YOU'VE CREATED?
LOOM
SUI SUI SUDARA RATTA SURA SURA SUI SUI SU~I
I KNOW IT'S SELFISH!
BUT I DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY OR THE STRENGTH TO KEEP UP A FAKE SMILE AS I LIE TO MYSELF.
HAHA!
WELL, THIS IS SO BORING.
AND NOW THAT I'VE BEEN HUNG OUT TO DRY AT WORK, I DON'T FEEL LIKE WATCHING MOVIES ANYWAY.
BWA-HA!
SHIT! HOW SELFISH!
YOU SELFISH OLD HAG!
BWA-HA!
SO?
WHAT IF, WHAT IF THIS ONE'S NOT GONNA WORK OUT EITHER?
ARE YOU GIVING UP? WHAT IF! WHAT IF!

Isn't it a shame to let him slip by? What if? What if?
BUT DIDN'T YOU DO THAT WITH PLENTY OF GREAT GUYS BACK WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG? WHAT IF? WHAT IF?
I KNOW HE'S A GREAT GUY.
BUT BEING AROUND HIM IS GONNA BE SO EXHAUST-ING.
RINKO.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE MEANING OF THE WORD "COMPRO-MISE"?
...
I CAN COMPRO-MISE ON OTHER THINGS...
IF HE WERE FAT, OR BALD, OR POOR, OR A SHABBY DRESSER...
BUT...
IF WE CAN'T CARRY ON A CONVERSATION, THAT'S TOO MUCH...
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN COM-PROMISE ON THAT POINT.


...
MR. OKUDA ...
IF I DIDN'T LIKE MOVIES... WOULD YOU STILL HAVE ASKED ME OUT?
HMM?
HA HA!
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? ARE YOU TIPSY?
GIVE ME A SERIOUS ANSWER, PLEASE ...
...WELL, I'M SURE I WOULD HAVE FALLEN FOR YOU EVEN IF YOU HATED MOVIES.

I MEAN, FOR HUMAN RELATION-SHIPS...ISN'T THAT THE CORE?
MUTTER MUTTER
YEP! THIS SCENE IS THE "CORE" OF THE WHOLE FILM!

PLUS, THAT WAY, I'D HAVE SHOWING YOU 300 MOVIES A YEAR TO TURN YOU INTO A FILM NUT TO LOOK FORWARD TO!
PAT
IF... THEN...
YOU AND I... GOT MARRIED ...
YEP!
WE'LL BUILD A HOME THEATER IN OUR PLACE AND WATCH ONE MOVIE TOGETHER A NIGHT!
THAT'S MY DREAM...
AND EVERY YEAR ON NEW YEAR'S EVE, WE'LL COME UP WITH OUR TOP 30 OF THE YEAR LIST!
DOESN'T THAT SOUND FUN?
BEAR WITH IT, RINKO!
BEAR WITH THIS AND WIN THE GOLD MEDAL! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
WAVE
CAN I BEAR IT?

I CAN...

...NOT BEAR IT.

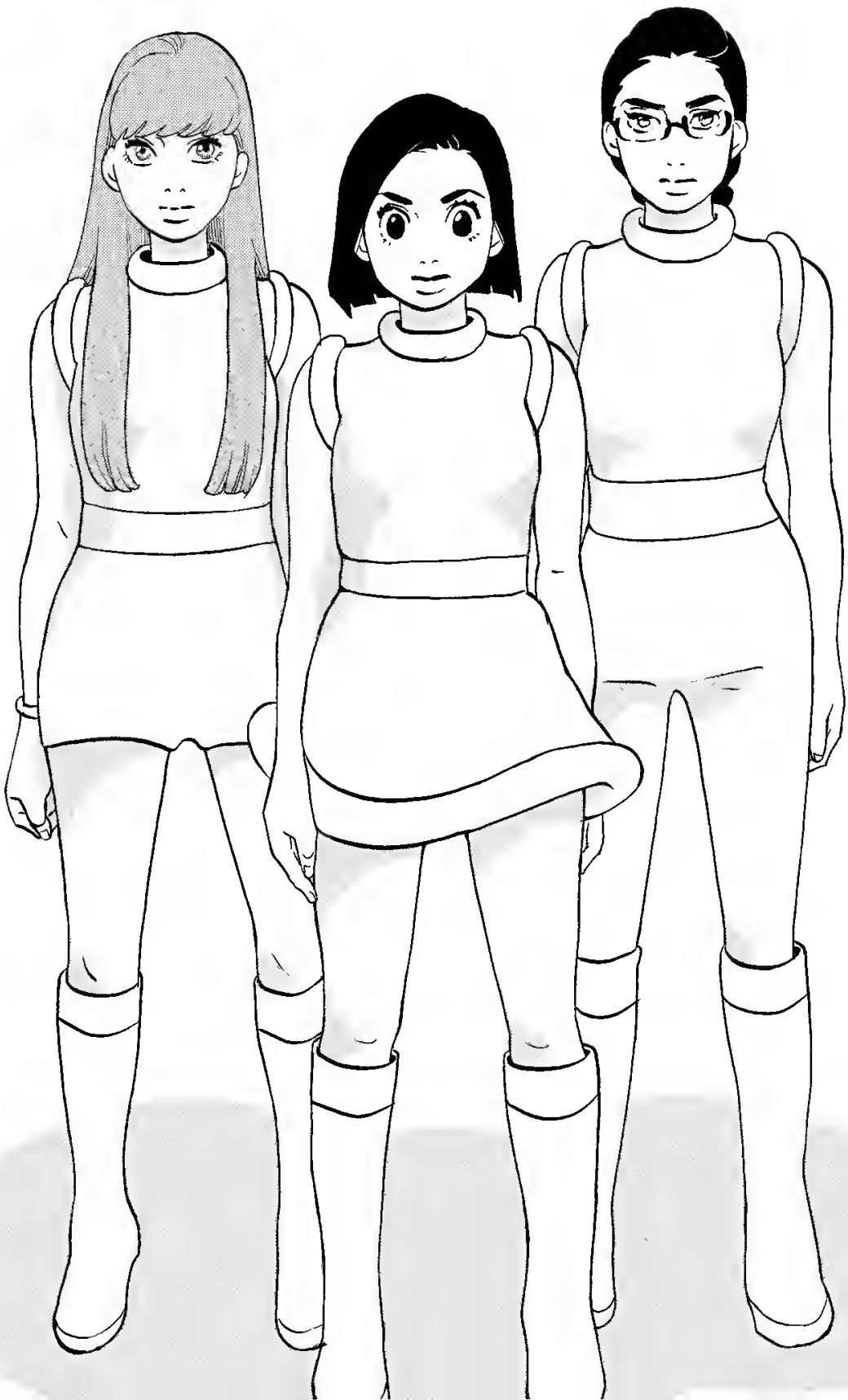
I CAN'T MAKE A TOP 30 LIST WITH A GUY WHO REJECTS "SEX AND THE CITY."
WATCHING THAT SERIES IS PRETTY MUCH WHAT MADE ME WANT TO BECOME A SCREEN-WRITER.
MEN ARE STUPID.
THEIR VALUES ARE DIFFERENT FROM WOMEN'S.

I KNOW THAT.
I KNOW.

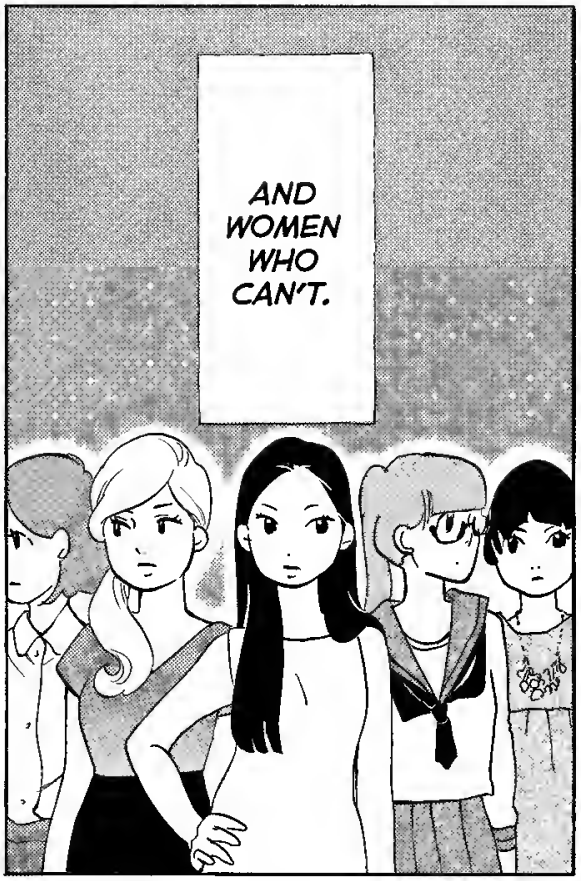
I KNOW THAT, BUT I CAN'T BEAR IT.

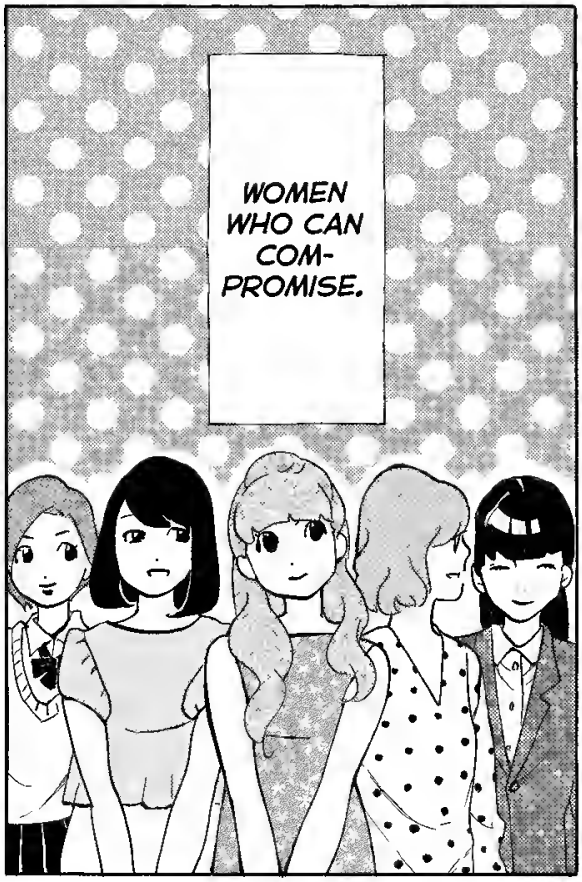
JUST CALL ME THE 21ST CENTURY SUDARA WOMAN AND LAUGH.

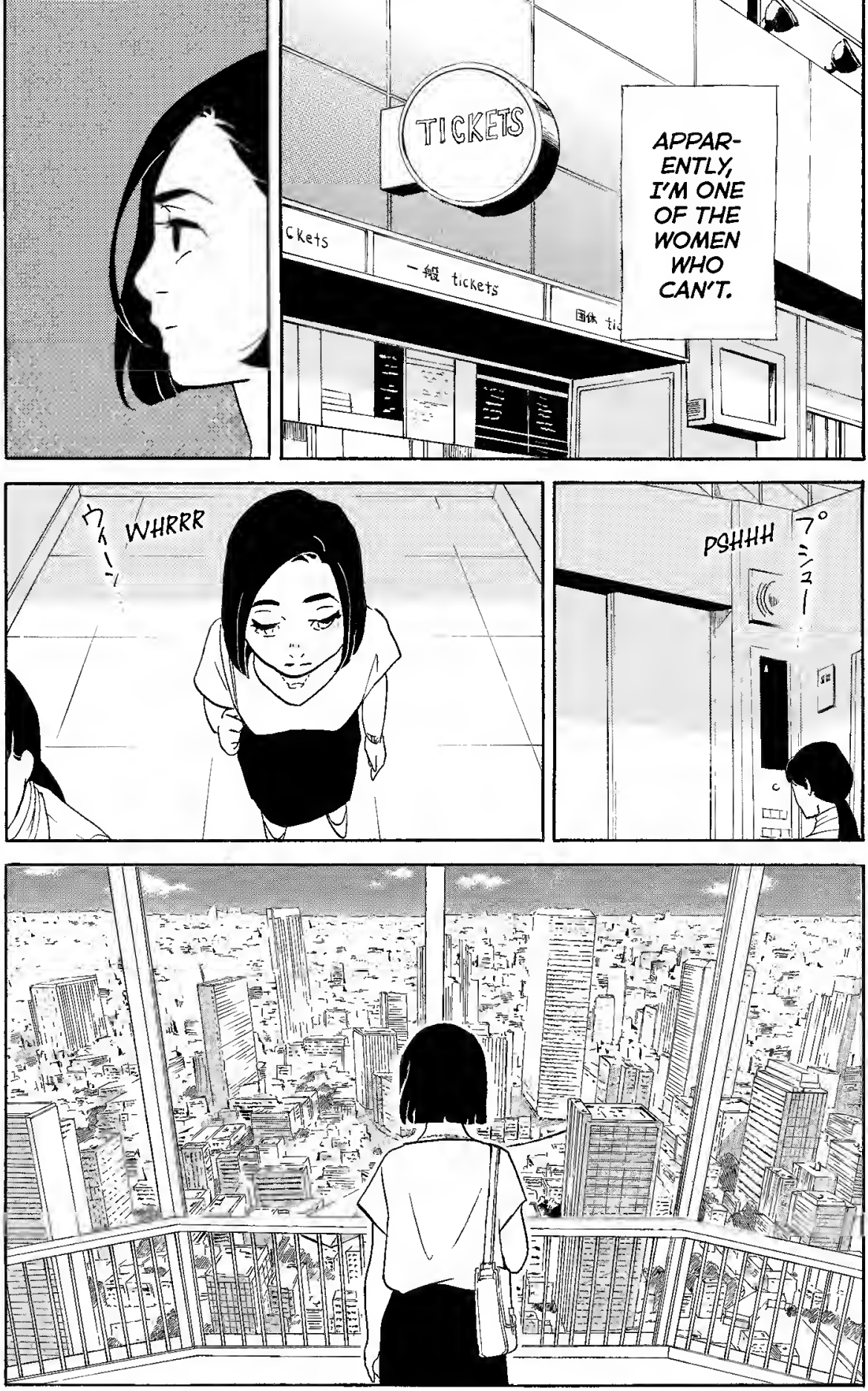
ACT 13 TIME MACHINE WOMEN

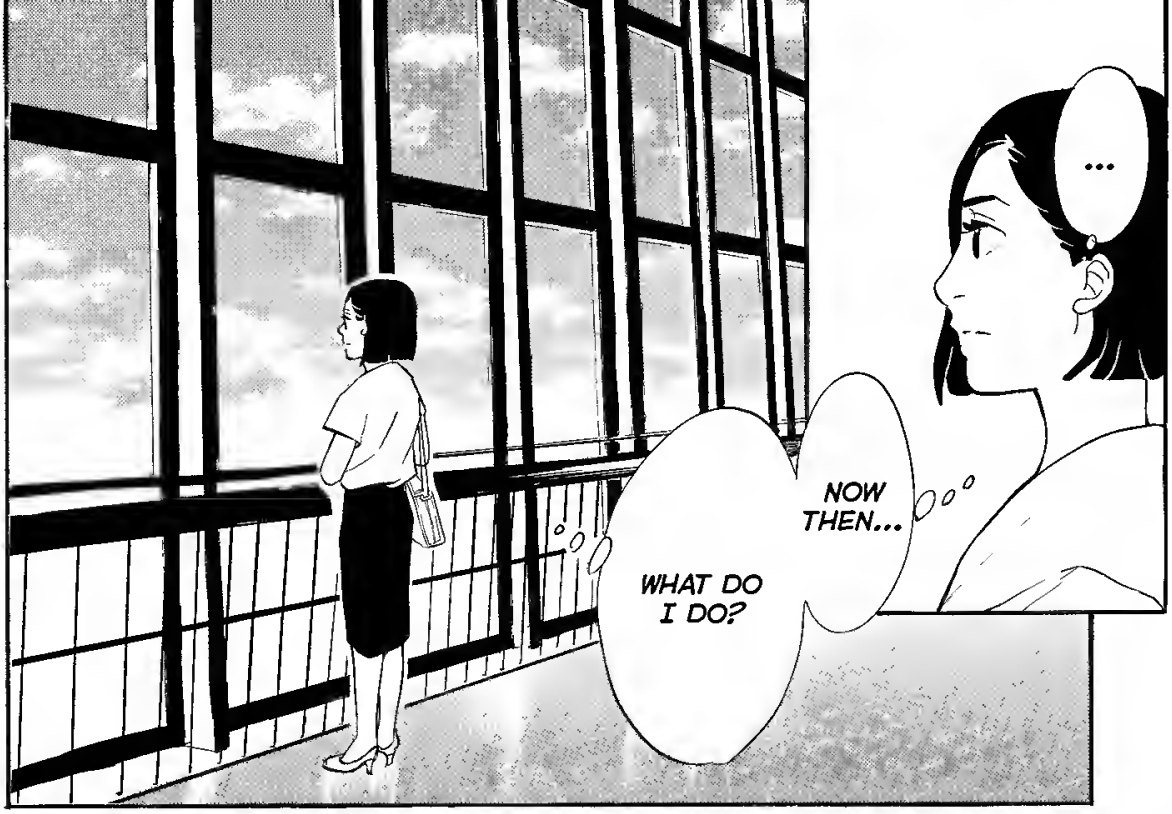


YOU CAN DIVIDE THE WOMEN OF THE WORLD INTO TWO TYPES:


AND WOMEN WHO CAN'T.


WOMEN WHO CAN COM-PROMISE.


TICKETS
cKets
一般 tickets
APPAR-
ENTLY,
I'M ONE
OF THE
WOMEN
WHO
CAN'T.
ウィーン
WHRRR
プシュー
PSHHH



Sorry. I don't think I can make it today.

CINEMA BAR SUNSET

Shock!

CINEMA BAR SUNSET

Then let's go tomorrow.

CINEMA BAR SUNSET

In the morning maybe.

Oh, sorry. I can't make it in the morning.

Going to the dentist.

CINEMA BAR SUNSET

What should we do today?

CINEMA BAR SUNSET

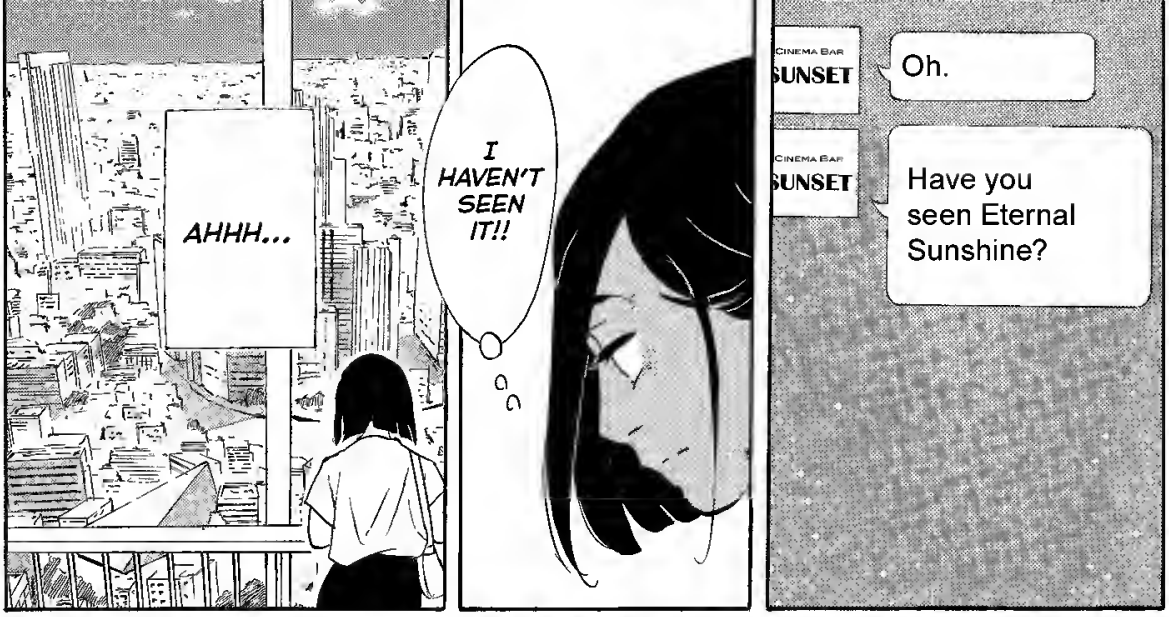
There's a movie I want to see playing at Cinema Qualité at 6.

CINEMA BAR SUNSET

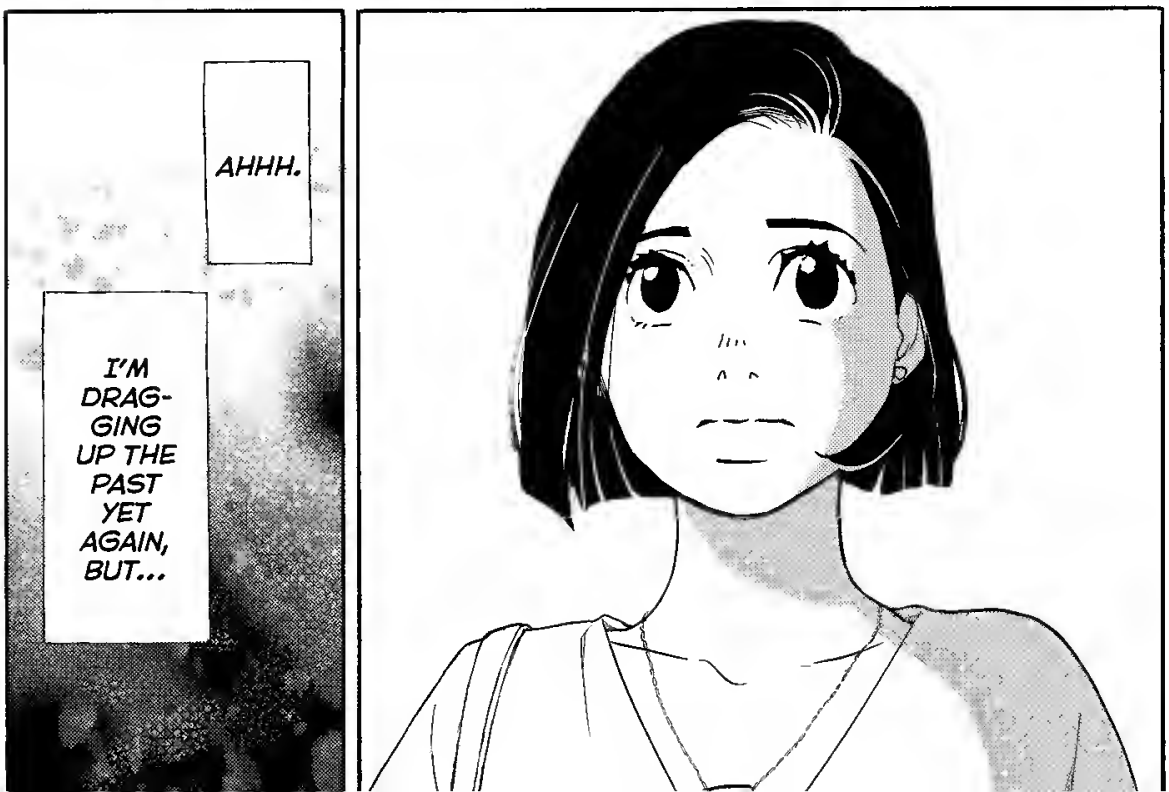
I'm sure you'll love it, Rinko.

CINEMA BAR SUNSET

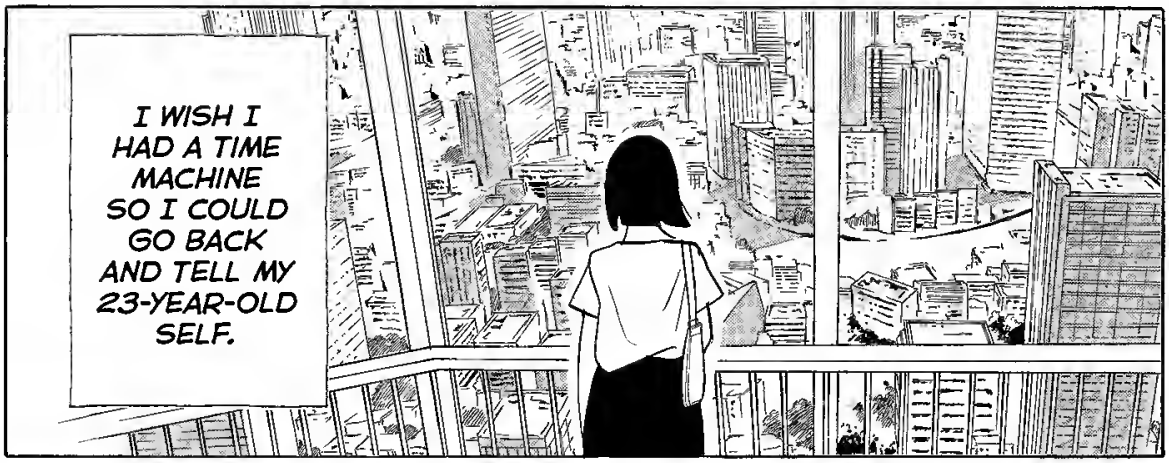
It's the newest film by the director of Eternal Sunshine.


AHHH...
I HAVEN'T SEEN IT!!
CINEMA BAR SUNSET
Oh.
CINEMA BAR SUNSET
Have you seen Eternal Sunshine?

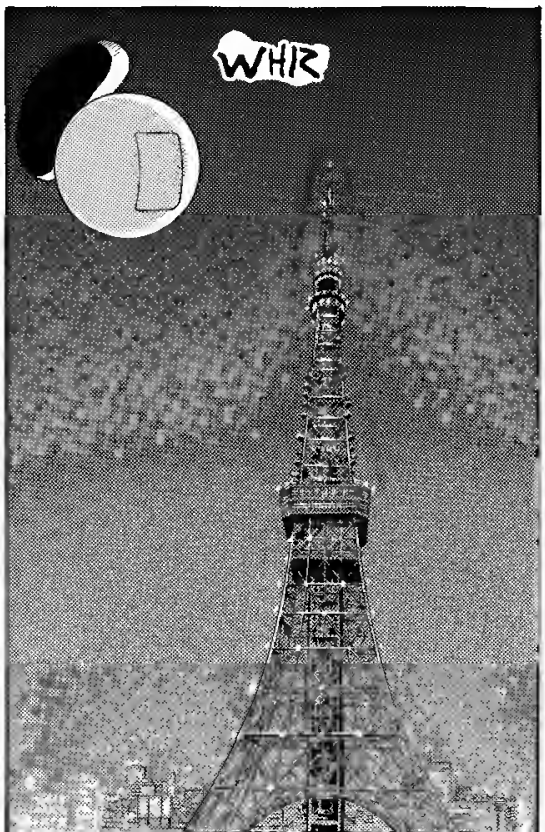
...IS TURNING TO DUST AND SCATTERING INTO THE VAST SKIES OVER TOKYO.
ALL THE EXCITE-MENT FROM WHEN WE FIRST STARTED SEEING EACH OTHER...


AHHH.
I'M DRAG-GING UP THE PAST YET AGAIN, BUT...

BUT HE WOULDN'T TRY TO FORCE ALL HIS MOVIE KNOWLEDGE ON HIS GIRLFRIEND.
HE'S IN THE TV INDUSTRY, SO HE MUST KNOW A LOT ABOUT MOVIES TOO.
I SHOULD'VE GONE OUT WITH MR. HAYASAKA BACK THEN.

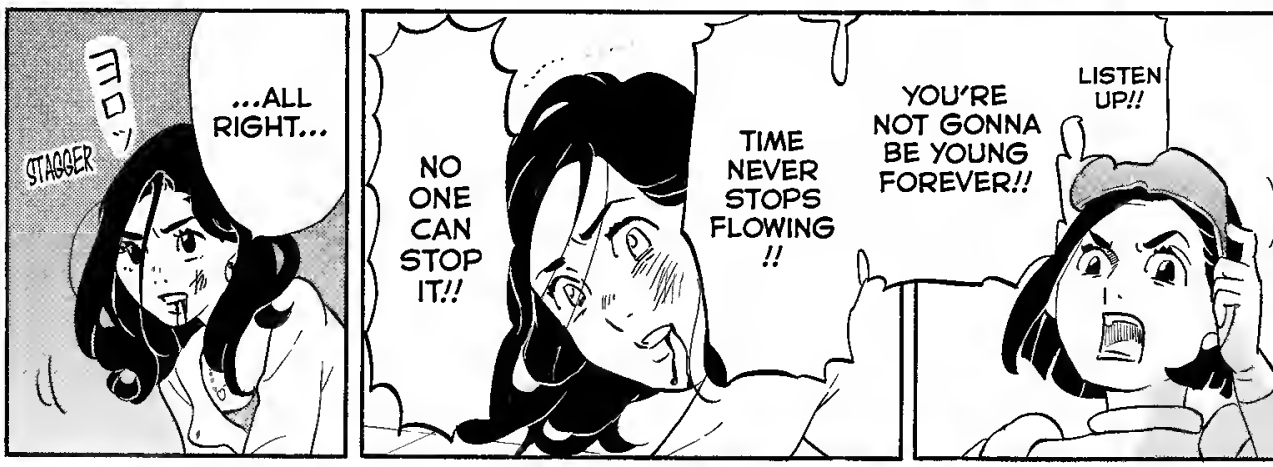

I WISH I HAD A TIME MACHINE SO I COULD GO BACK AND TELL MY 23-YEAR-OLD SELF.

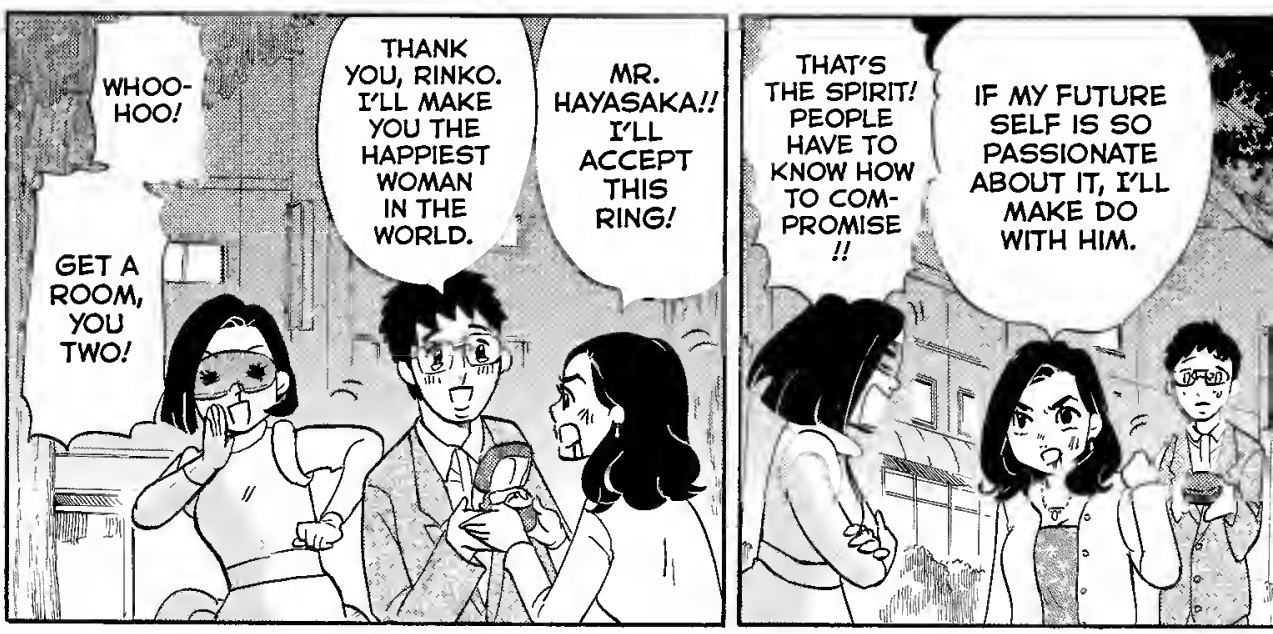
RMB
RMB
RMB


WHIR

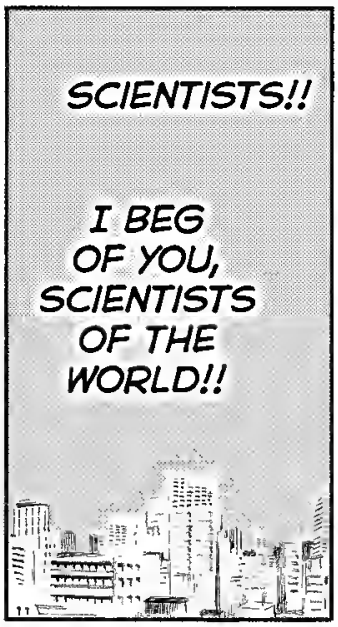
WHUMP
I'M THE 33-YEAR-OLD YOU FROM TEN YEARS IN THE FUTURE!
WHA?!
HUH?!
RIN-KOOO!!
ヒュー
WHIZ
HUH? BUT...
HE'S SO SHABBY, AND JUST LOOK AT THE RING...
I'M TELLING YOU THIS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD:
GO WITH HIM!!
WOOSH
THINK OF ALL THE NICE MEN I MIGHT STILL MEET...
BUT I'M STILL 23! THAT'S TOO EARLY TO SETTLE!
HUUUH?!
GRAB
SETTLE.
MISSY.
HUH?!

WHACK
YOU STUPID LITTLE BRAAAAAAT!!
HIDE-BU!
RINKO! ARE YOU OKAY?!
SEE?! LOOK HOW KIND HE IS!
JUST LOOK HOW KIND!
WHAP
WHY CAN'T YOU GO WITH HIM?!


LISTEN UP!!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA BE YOUNG FOREVER!!
TIME NEVER STOPS FLOWING !!
NO ONE CAN STOP IT!!
...ALL RIGHT...
STAGGER


IF MY FUTURE SELF IS SO PASSIONATE ABOUT IT, I'LL MAKE DO WITH HIM.
THAT'S THE SPIRIT! PEOPLE HAVE TO KNOW HOW TO COM-PROMISE !!
MR. HAYASAKA!! I'LL ACCEPT THIS RING!
THANK YOU, RINKO. I'LL MAKE YOU THE HAPPIEST WOMAN IN THE WORLD.
WHOO-HOO!
GET A ROOM, YOU TWO!

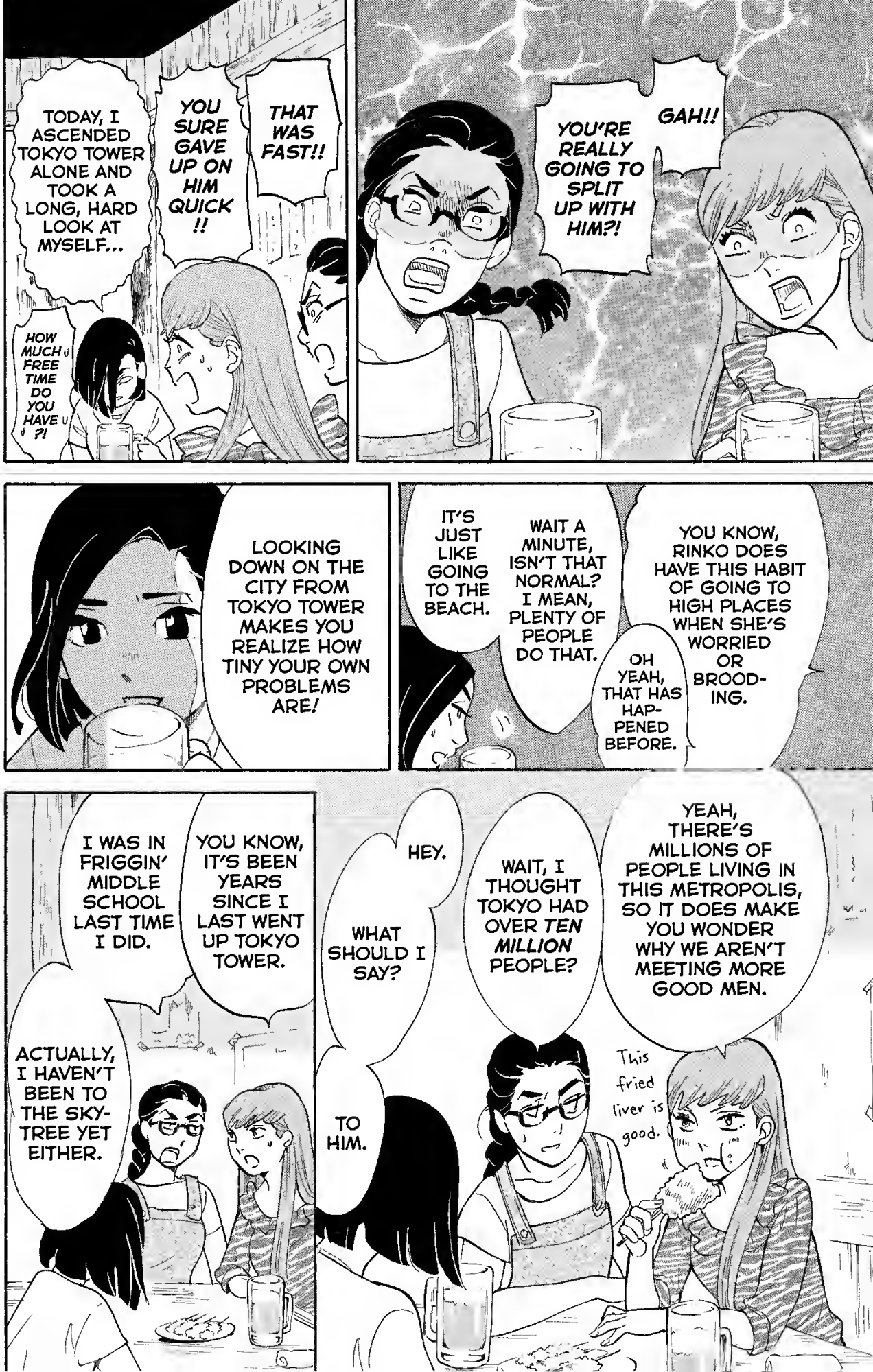
THEY HAVEN'T BEEN INVENTED!!
WAIT. THERE ARE NO TIME MACHINES!!


SCIENTISTS!!
I BEG OF YOU, SCIENTISTS OF THE WORLD!!

I SAW SOME GUY ON TV SAY THEY WERE THEORETI-CALLY IM-POSSIBLE!!

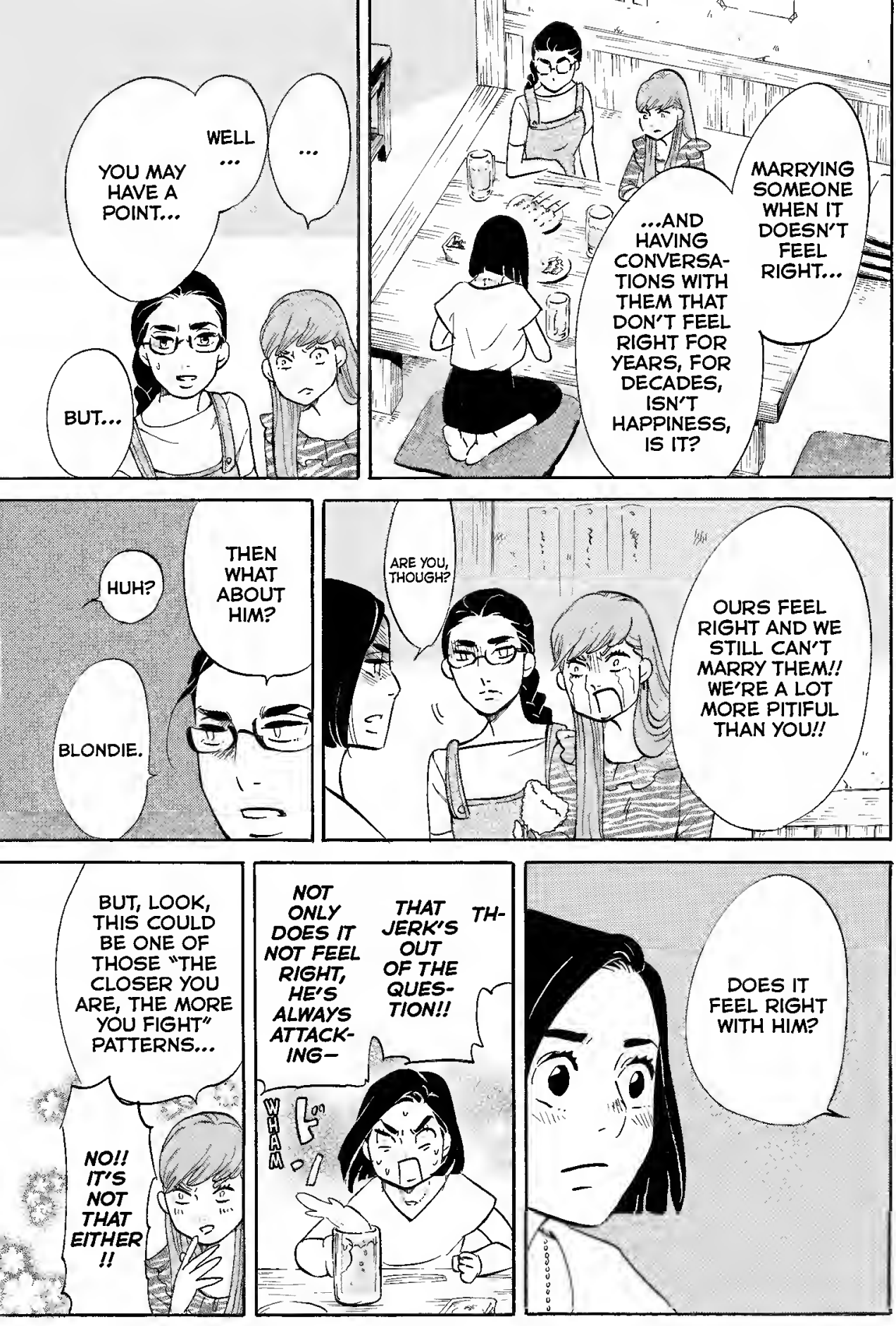
AND THERE'S NO SIGN THEY WILL BE ANYTIME SOON!!

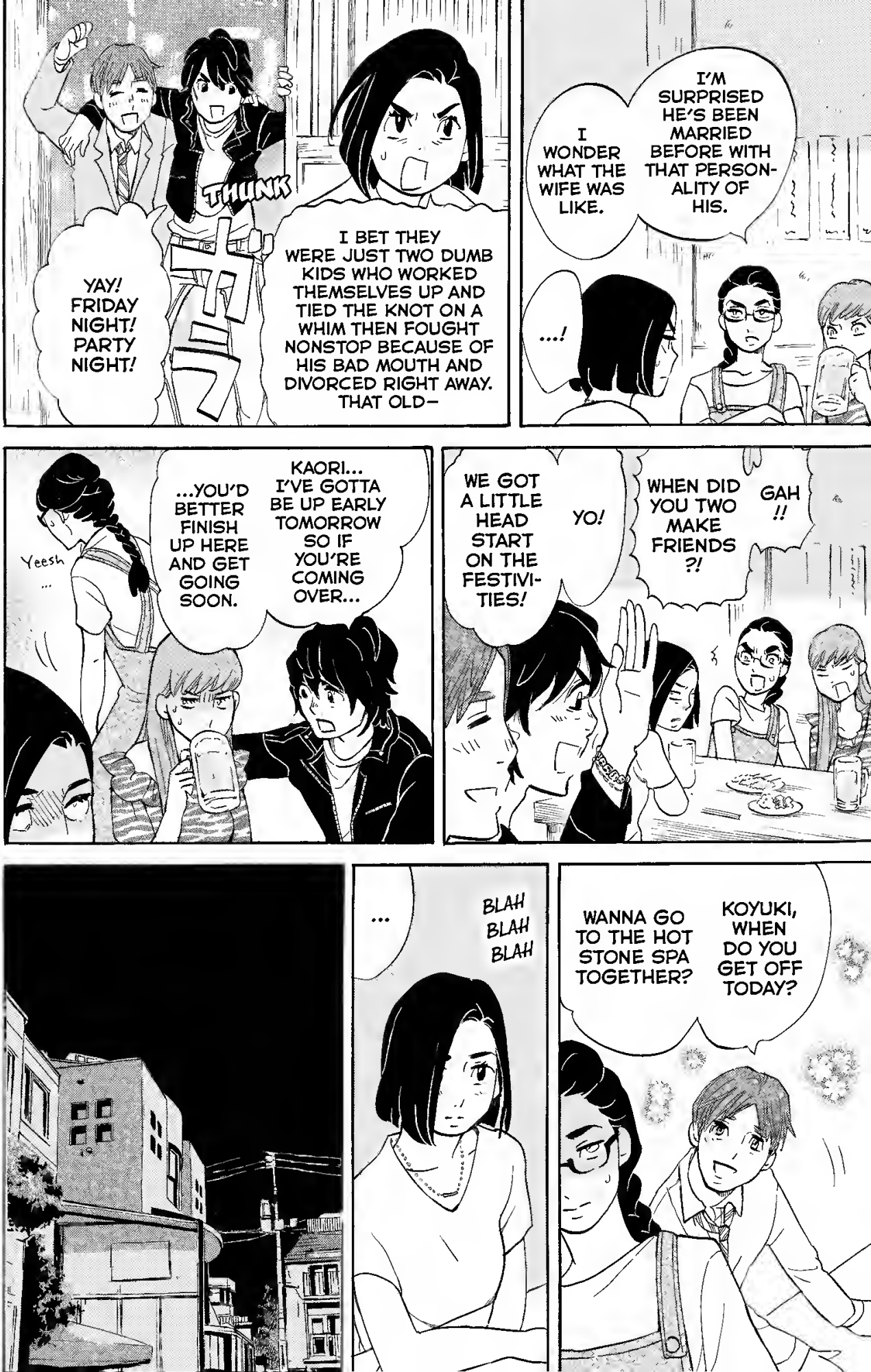
PLEASE INVENT A TIME MACHINE FOR US WHAT-IF GIRLS!!


TODAY, I ASCENDED TOKYO TOWER ALONE AND TOOK A LONG, HARD LOOK AT MYSELF...
YOU SURE GAVE UP ON HIM QUICK !!
THAT WAS FAST!!
HOW MUCH FREE TIME DO YOU HAVE ?!
GAH!!
YOU'RE REALLY GOING TO SPLIT UP WITH HIM?!
LOOKING DOWN ON THE CITY FROM TOKYO TOWER MAKES YOU REALIZE HOW TINY YOUR OWN PROBLEMS ARE!
IT'S JUST LIKE GOING TO THE BEACH.
WAIT A MINUTE, ISN'T THAT NORMAL? I MEAN, PLENTY OF PEOPLE DO THAT.
OH YEAH, THAT HAS HAP-PENED BEFORE.
YOU KNOW, RINKO DOES HAVE THIS HABIT OF GOING TO HIGH PLACES WHEN SHE'S WORRIED OR BROOD-ING.
I WAS IN FRIGGIN' MIDDLE SCHOOL LAST TIME I DID.
YOU KNOW, IT'S BEEN YEARS SINCE I LAST WENT UP TOKYO TOWER.
ACTUALLY, I HAVEN'T BEEN TO THE SKY-TREE YET EITHER.
HEY.
WHAT SHOULD I SAY?
TO HIM.
WAIT, I THOUGHT TOKYO HAD OVER TEN MILLION PEOPLE?
YEAH, THERE'S MILLIONS OF PEOPLE LIVING IN THIS METROPOLIS, SO IT DOES MAKE YOU WONDER WHY WE AREN'T MEETING MORE GOOD MEN.
This fried liver is good.

THE WHAT-A-WASTE GHOSTS ARE GONNA HAUNT YOU, YOU JERK!!
THAT'S SO OLD!!
A thirty-something gag!!
WE'RE TELLING YOU IT'D BE A WASTE!!
HOW SHOULD I BREAK IT TO HIM THAT I WANT TO SPLIT UP?
WE MAY NEVER GO.
YEP.
I'VE GOT NO ONE TO GO WITH.
NEITHER HAVE I.
SIGH
HEY, FORGET ABOUT THAT.
IT'S TOO EMBARRASSING TO EXPRESS YOUR EMOTIONS LIKE WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG.
IT'S 33-YEAR-OLD SYNDROME.
OH, I UNDERSTAND THAT.
I know that feeling.
HE'S THE TYPE I DON'T THINK I COULD EVER FIGHT WITH, AND THAT'S WHY I DON'T THINK I CAN DATE HIM...
UGH ...
THAT'S RIGHT! THAT'S RIGHT! TRY TO FIGHT WITH HIM!
WELL, TELL US WHAT THE PROBLEM IS!!
I'M SO JEALOUS... ...
HUUUH?!
NOPE. ...
OR MAKE YOU SUPER TIRED JUST TALKING TO THEM?
DOES IT EVER FEEL "OFF"...
ARE WITH YOUR MEN...
THEN WHEN YOU TWO...

I WONDER WHICH IS BETTER.
A MAN WHO MAY HAVE OTHER WOMEN, BUT WHO I HAVE FUN WITH...
OR ONE WHO'S MINE ALONE, BUT JUST DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER.
...WHICH IS BETTER...?
Why you...
SLUMP
NATURALLY, THE SINGLE GUY'S BETTER, RIGHT?
YOU THINK SO?
AT THIS POINT, AS LONG AS IT FEELS RIGHT WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER, THAT'D BE ENOUGH FOR ME.
EVEN IF WE CAN'T GET MARRIED...
EVEN IF WE CAN'T LIVE TOGETHER...
AS LONG AS WE COULD GET TOGETHER ON OUR DAYS OFF, TALK, AND HAVE FUN... AT LEAST WE'D BE HAPPY FOR THAT DAY, RIGHT?
ハムかつ
チーズフライ 450
磯辺揚 400
煮豚 600


MARRYING SOMEONE WHEN IT DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT...
...AND HAVING CONVERSATIONS WITH THEM THAT DON'T FEEL RIGHT FOR YEARS, FOR DECADES, ISN'T HAPPINESS, IS IT?
...
WELL ...
YOU MAY HAVE A POINT...
BUT...
OURS FEEL RIGHT AND WE STILL CAN'T MARRY THEM!! WE'RE A LOT MORE PITIFUL THAN YOU!!
ARE YOU, THOUGH?
THEN WHAT ABOUT HIM?
HUH?
BLONDIE.
DOES IT FEEL RIGHT WITH HIM?
TH-
THAT JERK'S OUT OF THE QUES-TION!!
NOT ONLY DOES IT NOT FEEL RIGHT, HE'S ALWAYS ATTACK-ING—
WHAM
BUT, LOOK, THIS COULD BE ONE OF THOSE "THE CLOSER YOU ARE, THE MORE YOU FIGHT" PATTERNS...
NO!! IT'S NOT THAT EITHER !!


YAY! FRIDAY NIGHT! PARTY NIGHT!
THUNK
I BET THEY WERE JUST TWO DUMB KIDS WHO WORKED THEMSELVES UP AND TIED THE KNOT ON A WHIM THEN FOUGHT NONSTOP BECAUSE OF HIS BAD MOUTH AND DIVORCED RIGHT AWAY. THAT OLD—
I WONDER WHAT THE WIFE WAS LIKE.
I'M SURPRISED HE'S BEEN MARRIED BEFORE WITH THAT PERSONALITY OF HIS.
...!
Yeesh...
...YOU'D BETTER FINISH UP HERE AND GET GOING SOON.
KAORI... I'VE GOTTA BE UP EARLY TOMORROW SO IF YOU'RE COMING OVER...
YO! WE GOT A LITTLE HEAD START ON THE FESTIVITIES!
GAH!! WHEN DID YOU TWO MAKE FRIENDS?!
...
BLAH BLAH BLAH
KOYUKI, WHEN DO YOU GET OFF TODAY?
WANNA GO TO THE HOT STONE SPA TOGETHER?

HUH?
YOU KNOW... DOES IT JUST FEEL "OFF"?
DO YOU EVER GET TIRED OR...
WHEN YOU, LIKE, TALK TO ME...
RYO ...
HEY ...
AHH ...
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA BE ABLE TO WAKE UP AT 6 TOMORROW!
HUH?!
OH... I DO.
WHAT ABOUT ...
...HER?
OF COURSE NOT!
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER SINCE WE WERE 18!
...RIGHT?
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S A LOT YOUNGER THAN ME.
THEN IT'S MORE FUN TALKING TO ME?
AND US MUSICIANS DON'T REALLY KNOW HOW TO TALK TO THOSE FASHION PEOPLE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
OUR CONVERSATIONS JUST DON'T FLOW...
HUH...

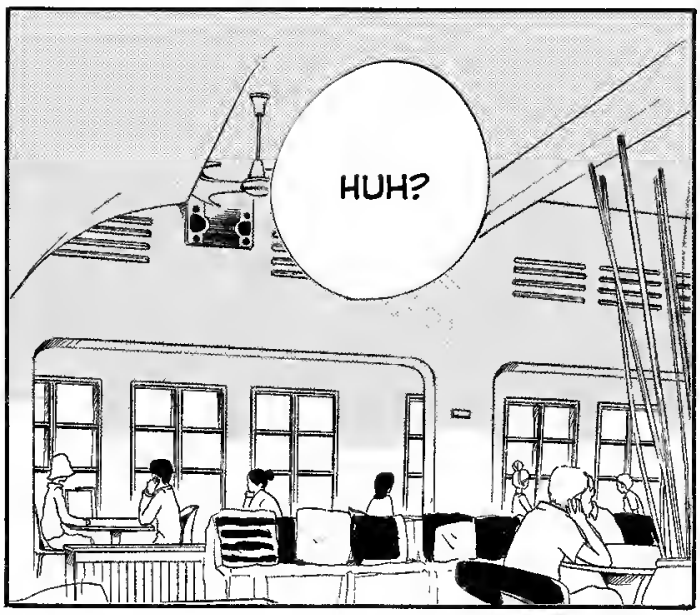
YEAH.
OTHERWISE I WOULDN'T HANG OUT WITH YOU LIKE THIS.
I DO GET TIRED EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE...
...WHEN I'M AROUND GIRLS LIKE HER.
THEN WHY DON'T YOU JUST BREAK UP WITH HER AND GO OUT WITH ME AGAIN?
YEAH, RIGHT.
I'M NOT SAYING THAT.
SO?

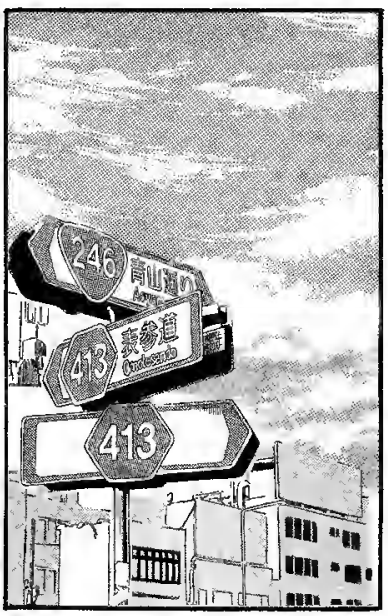
WHEN IS YOUR WIFE COMING BACK FROM HER PARENTS' HOUSE?
...SHE SAYS SHE'S GOING TO STAY THERE FOR A WHILE EVEN AFTER THE BIRTH...
BUT SHE'LL BE BACK SOONER OR LATER. AFTER BEING AWAY FOR TWO MONTHS.
AND THEN WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MEET LIKE WE DO NOW.
AND YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO COME TO THE PUB FOR MEALS EITHER.
NO!
I'LL COME!
WHUMP!
SO...
SHE'S ALWAYS HATED HOUSE-WORK ...
MY WIFE CAN'T COOK AT ALL.
IT'S WHAT YOU CALL ONE OF THOSE POST-PARTUM CRISES.
SHE'S BEEN ON EDGE SINCE WE HAD KID. EVERY DAY SHE CRIES AND WHINES...

I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE MY WIFE, WHO HAD TURNED INTO ALMOST A DIFFERENT PERSON AFTER OUR FIRST CHILD ANY-MORE...
BUT I...
SHE FIGURED HAVING TWO CHILDREN WOULD MAKE THINGS EASIER IN THE FUTURE...
BUT THEN SHE SAID SHE WANTED ANOTHER ONE WHEN THE FIRST ONE GREW UP A LITTLE.
...SO I ASKED HER TO HAVE THE NEXT ONE AT HER PARENT'S HOUSE IN FUKUOKA AND LET THEM RAISE IT THERE FOR A WHILE.
OUR OLDER CHILD WAS STILL A HANDFUL ...
IT'S PRETTY DIFFERENT FROM THE HAPPINESS I HAD ENVI-SIONED FOR MYSELF.
...HAV-ING KIDS?
BUT ISN'T IT A HAPPY THING...
I'M SURE IT IS...
BUT...

LOSER
...
...
WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING ME HAPPY...
...CHATTING WITH YOU HERE IN THIS SPA MAKES ME MUCH HAPPIER.

HE'S MUCH MORE HONEST THAN THOSE MEN WHO DON'T EVEN LIKE KIDS, BUT TRY TO PRETEND THEY'RE THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD BECAUSE OF THEIRS.
BUT HE'S HONEST AND CUTE.


HUH?

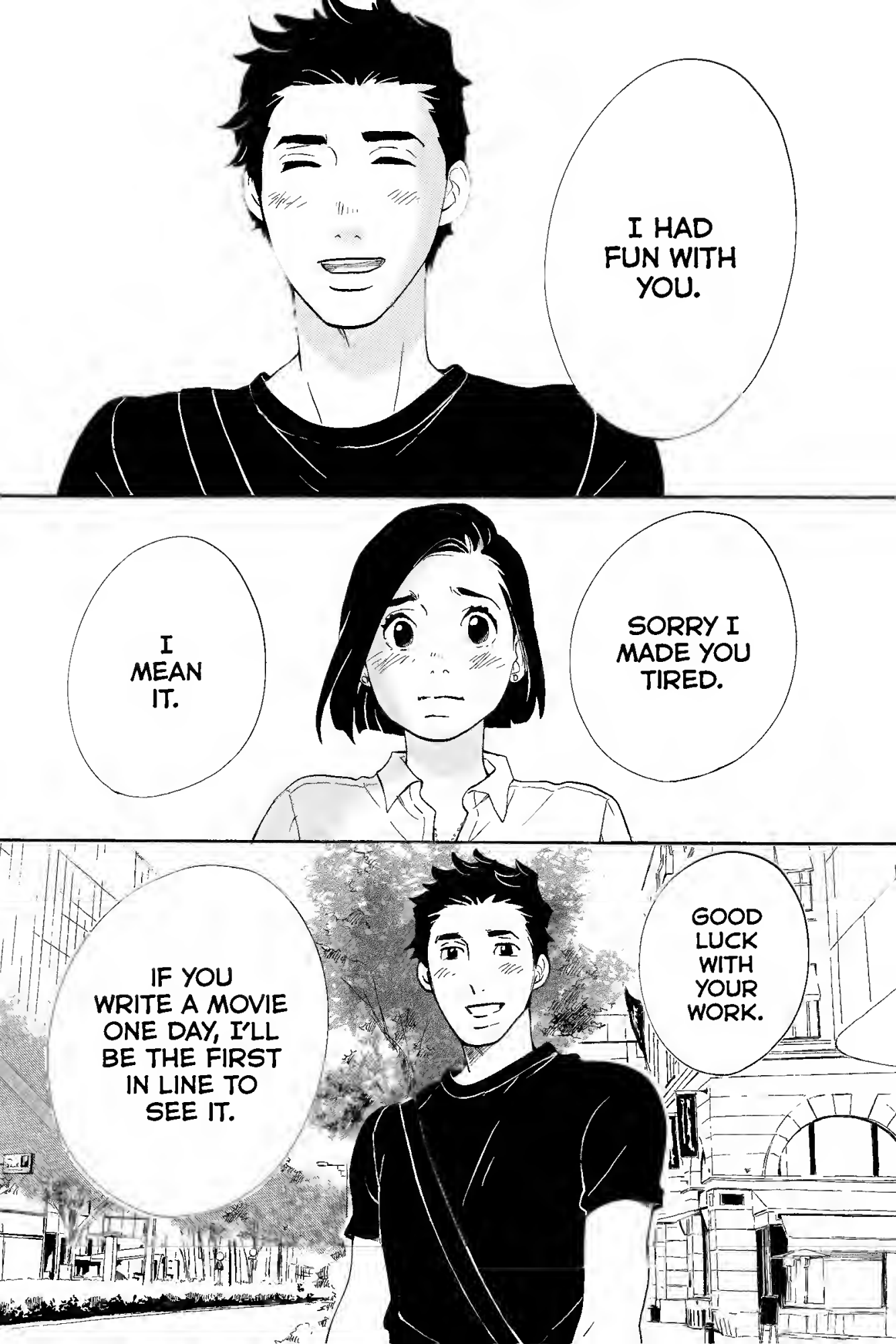

246
413
413

LIKE I SAID...I, UM, DECIDED I REALLY DO HAVE TO FOCUS ON MY JOB NOW...
SO FOR A WHILE, IT'LL BE HARD FOR ME TO SEE YOU...
...LIKE I DO NOW...
...
I'M...
...
SORRY.
...
RINKO.
TWITCH

SO I DIDN'T WORK OUT?
...!
HAHA!
IT'S OKAY. YOU CAN TELL ME THE TRUTH.
I MUST'VE DONE SOMETHING WRONG, RIGHT?
HUH ?!
NO, YOU DIDN'T DO ANY-THING ...
WE'RE BOTH STILL SINGLE AT OUR AGE...
SO IT'S NOT EASY TO MEET EACH OTHER IN THE MIDDLE.
CLINK
カラ

I...
NO. THE PROBLEM IS WITH ME.
...!
Y-
YOU'RE SUCH A GREAT GUY YOU'RE WASTED ON ME...
I WANT YOU TO GIVE IT TO ME STRAIGHT.
IF IT'S A PROBLEM I CAN FIX, I'LL FIX IT.
WHEN I'M AROUND YOU.
JUST GET TIRED...
I...
BUT THAT'S BECAUSE THERE'S SOME-THING WRONG WITH ME.
...CAN'T OVERCOME THAT EVEN AT THIS AGE. IT'S MY FAULT.
...
IF YOU'VE DECIDED I'M NOT THE ONE...
...THEN THERE'S NO GETTING AROUND IT.

...I HAVEN'T ...
HAVE YOU SEEN THAT ONE?
AT TIMES LIKE THIS, MEN ARE SUPPOSED TO LEAVE QUIETLY. THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID IN "THE GODFATHER."
WELL.
FEEL FREE TO COME BY THE BAR SOMETIME LIKE NOTHING HAPPENED.
BUT LET ME TELL YOU ONE LAST THING BEFORE I GO.
HUH ?!
TWITCH
WHAT IS IT?
THANK YOU, RINKO.
FOR TELLING ME THE TRUTH.
OH.
YEAH ...
I'VE GOT TO STOP BY *TSUTAYA*, SO I'LL SEE YOU AROUND.


I HAD FUN WITH YOU.
SORRY I MADE YOU TIRED.
I MEAN IT.
GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR WORK.
IF YOU WRITE A MOVIE ONE DAY, I'LL BE THE FIRST IN LINE TO SEE IT.

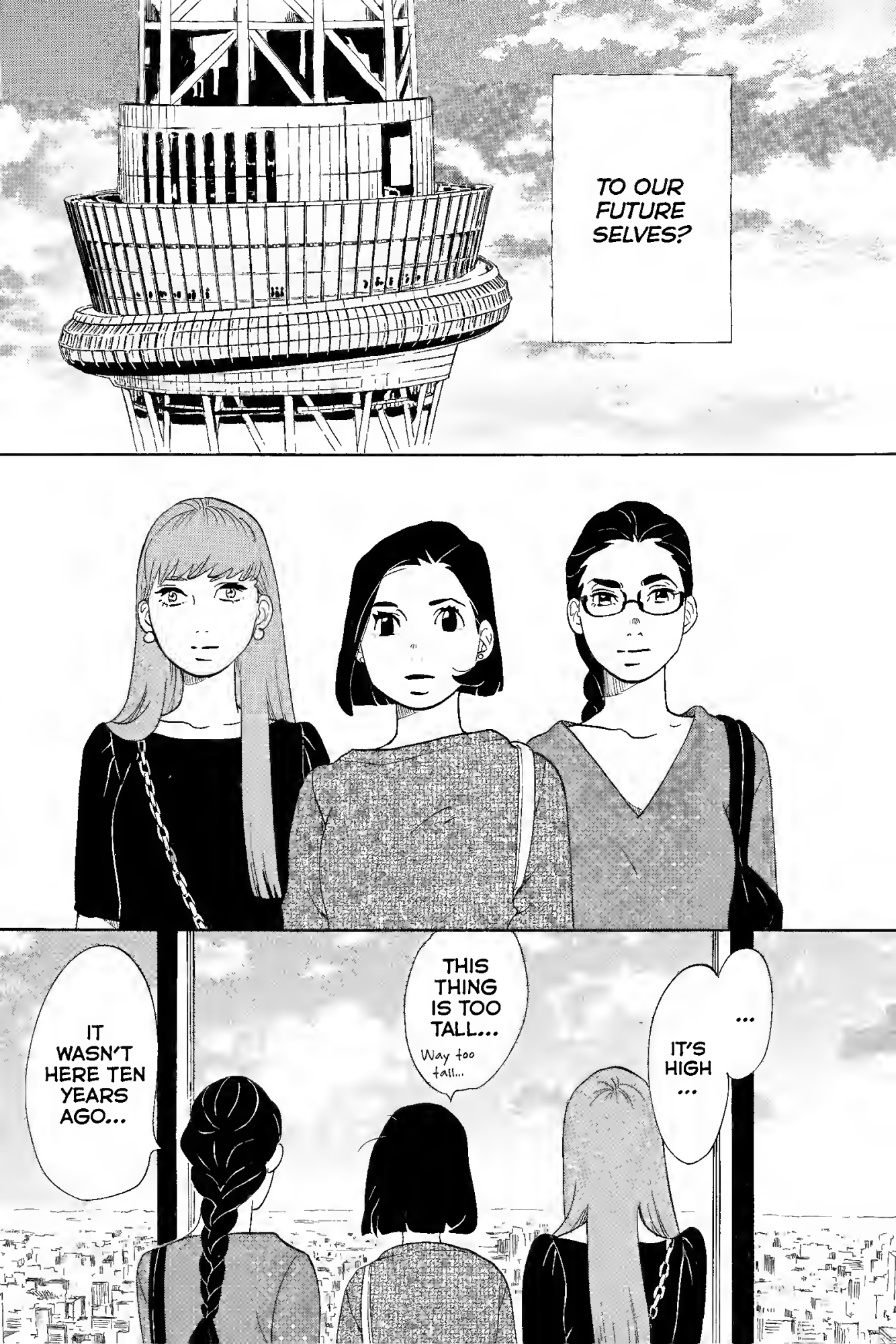
WHIIII~
OKAY.
TAKE CARE.
~IIIIZ
SIGH.
I CAN SEE A TIME MACHINE ARRIVING FROM TEN YEARS IN THE FUTURE.
AND THE 43-YEAR-OLD ME IN THE DRIVER'S SEAT SAYS THIS:
WHIIIIZ

RINKO.
GO WITH HIM.
IF YOU LET HIM GET AWAY, YOU'LL REGRET IT.
YOU'RE ALREADY 33.
YOU MUST COMPRO-MISE.
PLEASE... I'M BEGGING YOU...
OPEN YOUR EYES.
CLACK
I'M STILL ALONE.
KER-CHUNK
I AM YOU FROM TEN YEARS IN THE FUTURE.
PSHHH

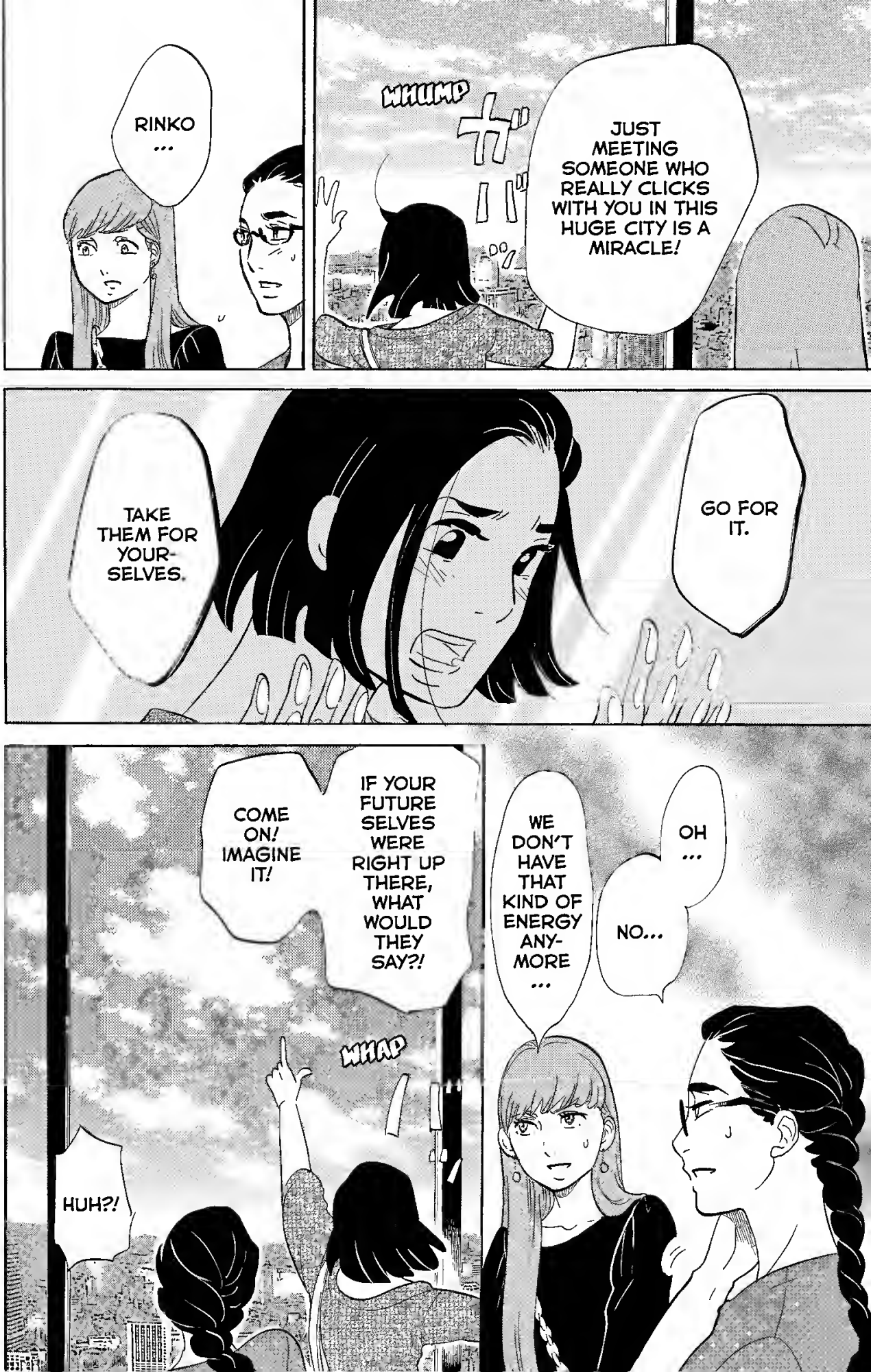
I'M LONELY.
BUT STILL...
MY LEGS DO NOT MOVE.
OUR HANDS, WHICH WERE SUP-POSED ...
...TO GRASP HAPPI-NESS...

MODE
74
...STAY STILL, AS IF FROZEN.
WHEN WE CAN BE WITH SOMEONE, IT DOESN'T MESH.
WHEN IT DOES MESH, WE CAN'T BE WITH THEM.
BLUB
BLUB

PINK ポ
I wanna go to the Skytree.
Good idea.
EVEN WHEN WE'RE IN LOVE, WE CAN'T GET MARRIED.
WHEN WAS IT...
...WE GOT STUCK IN THIS MISMATCHED, CLUMSY LIFE-STYLE?
BUT WHO ARE WE SUPPOSED TO APOLOGIZE TO?
...SAID KEN, LONG AGO.
"I'M SORRY WE'RE CLUMSY."

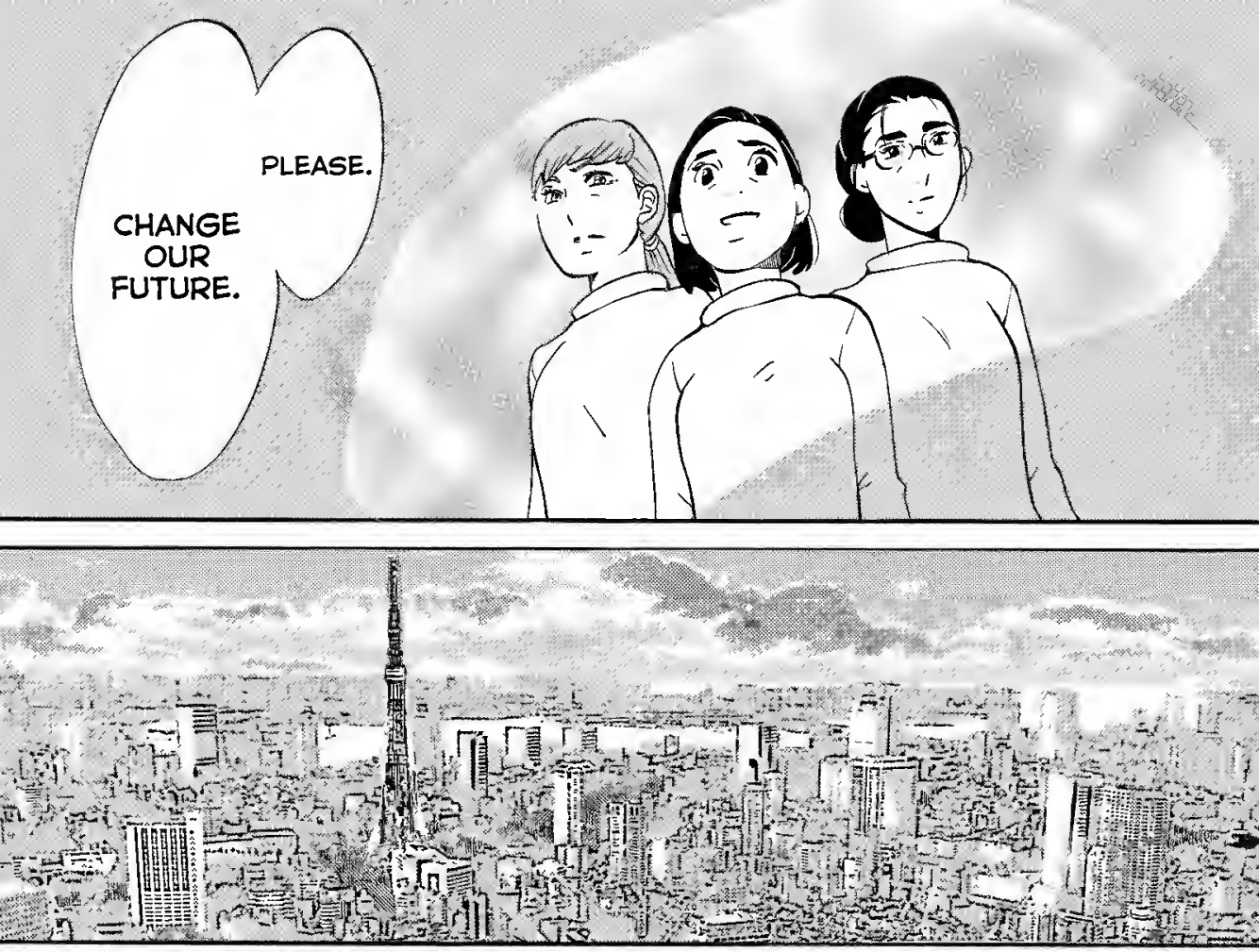

TO OUR FUTURE SELVES?
IT WASN'T HERE TEN YEARS AGO...
THIS THING IS TOO TALL...
Way too tall...
IT'S HIGH
...

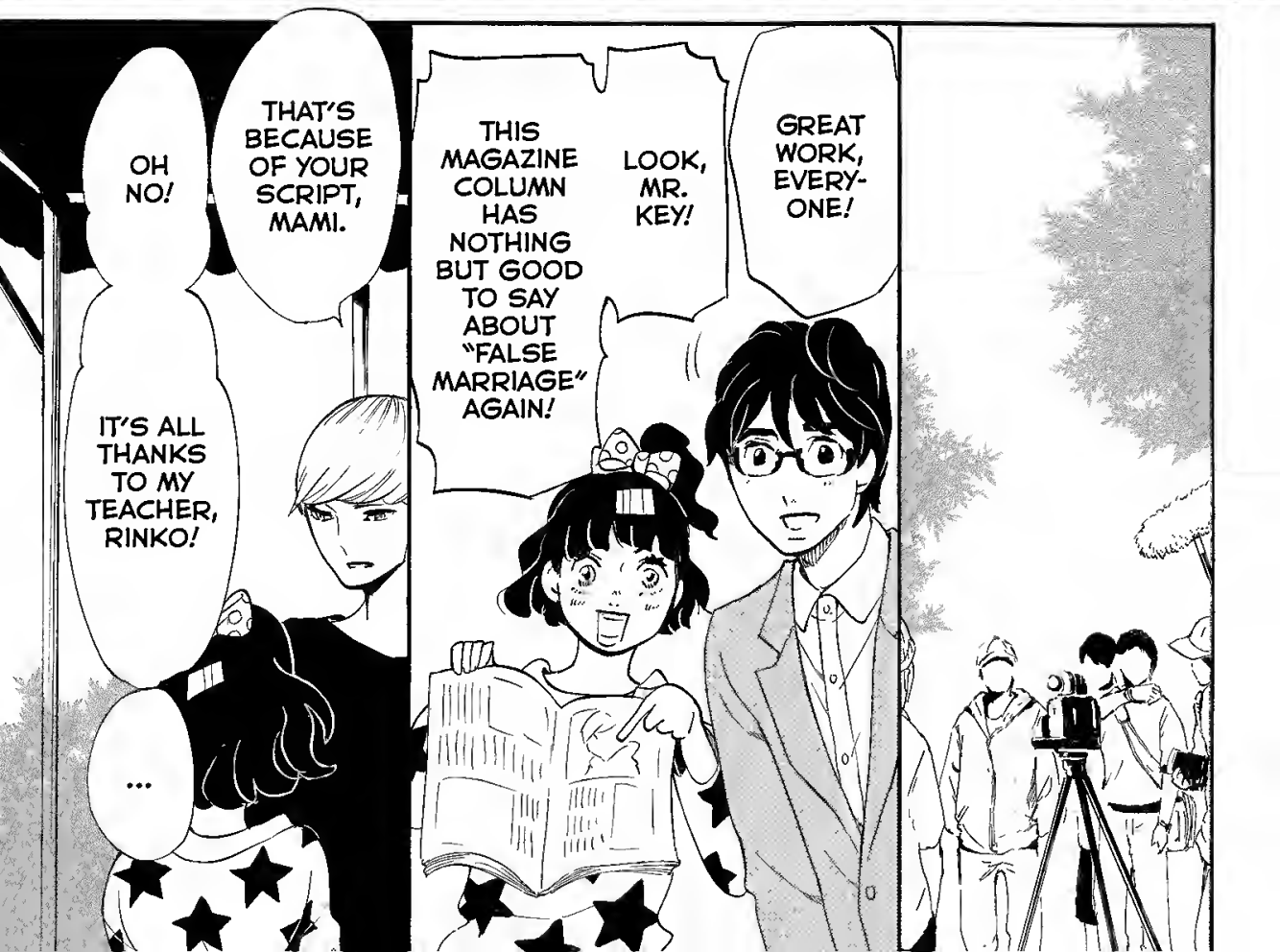
SAY...
IF TIME MACHINES WERE REAL...
...
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU DID DUMP THAT GREAT GUY.
...YOU PRACTICALLY ARE A HERMIT AT THIS POINT, RIGHT?
...CLIMBING TALL PLACES LIKE THIS MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A HERMIT OR SOMETHING.
YOU KNOW ...
...OR MAYBE GIVE US A GOOD WHACK UPSIDE THE HEAD?
THEY MIGHT YELL AT US ABOUT THIS BEING NO TIME TO VISIT THE SKYTREE WITH OUR GIRLFRIENDS...
WELL ...
...
...WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'D TELL US?
AND OUR FUTURE SELVES CAME TO VISIT US FROM THE FUTURE...
...VALUE YOUR OWN FEELINGS.
EVEN IF YOUR MAN'S GOT A GIRLFRIEND OR A WIFE...
WH-WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
HANG IN THERE, YOU TWO.
...
HEY...

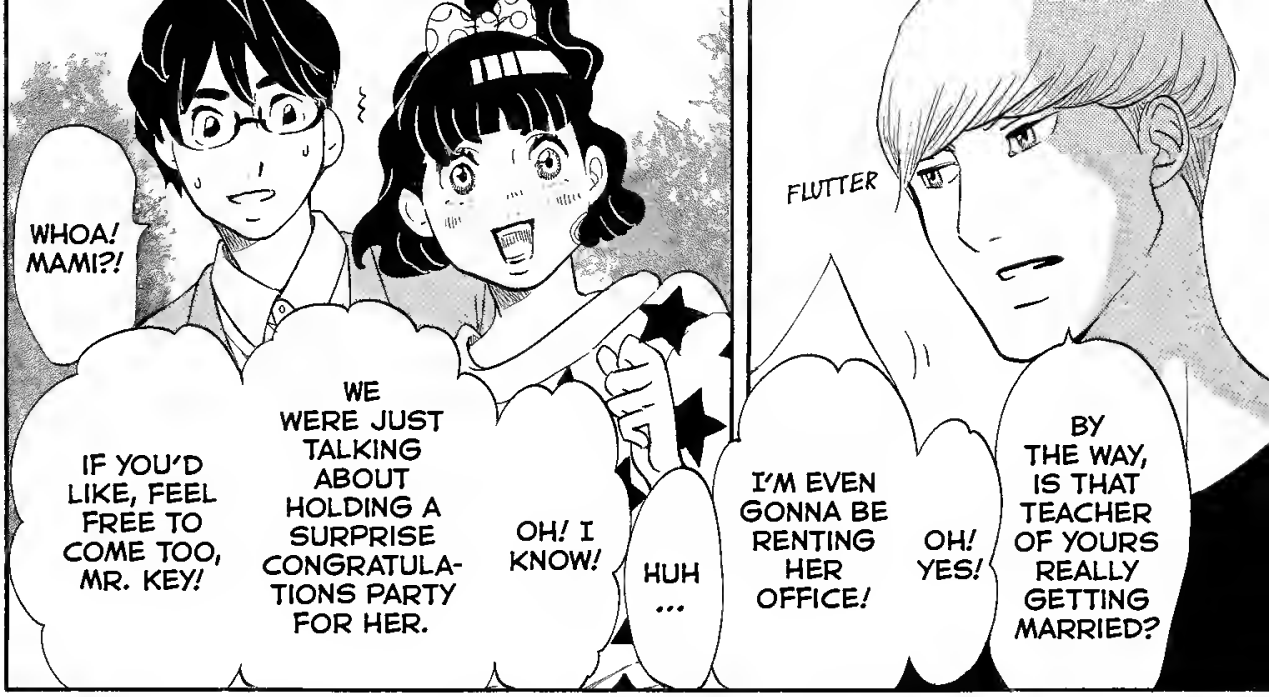

RINKO ...
WHUMP
JUST MEETING SOMEONE WHO REALLY CLICKS WITH YOU IN THIS HUGE CITY IS A MIRACLE!
TAKE THEM FOR YOUR-SELVES.
GO FOR IT.
COME ON! IMAGINE IT!
IF YOUR FUTURE SELVES WERE RIGHT UP THERE, WHAT WOULD THEY SAY?!
WHAP
HUH?!
WE DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF ENERGY ANY-MORE ...
OH ...
NO...

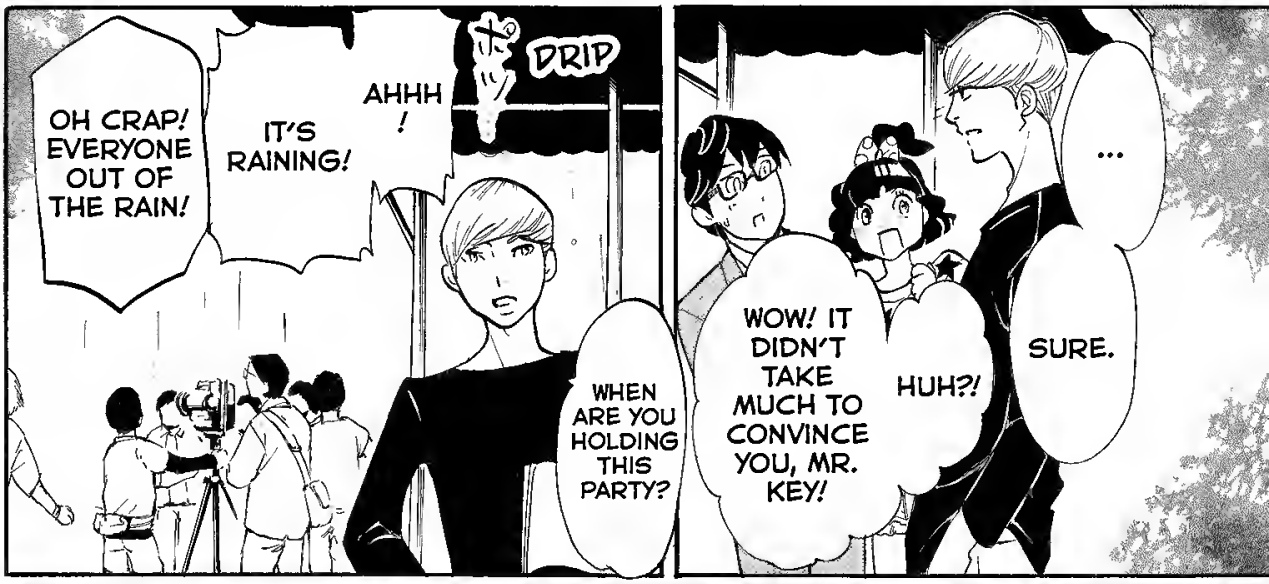
I CAN SEE IT...
HUH ?!
OH!
KAORI'S AN IDIOT, SO SHE'S EASY TO HYPNOTIZE AND STUFF!
YOU'RE HERE TOO, KOYUKI.
SEE. RIGHT UP THERE...
PUFF
PUFF

YOU THREE ARE STILL YOUNG.
YOU'RE STILL IN THE GAME.
SORRY YOUR FUTURE IS SO DISAP-POINTING.
EVERY WEEK, WE GO ON DAY TOURS BY BUS TO CHIBA AND OTHER PLACES.
THAT'S ALL WE HAVE TO LOOK FORWARD TO.
SO HANG IN THERE FOR NOW.
YOU MUST FIND A LIFELONG PARTNER BY THE TOKYO OLYMPICS.


PLEASE.
CHANGE OUR FUTURE.

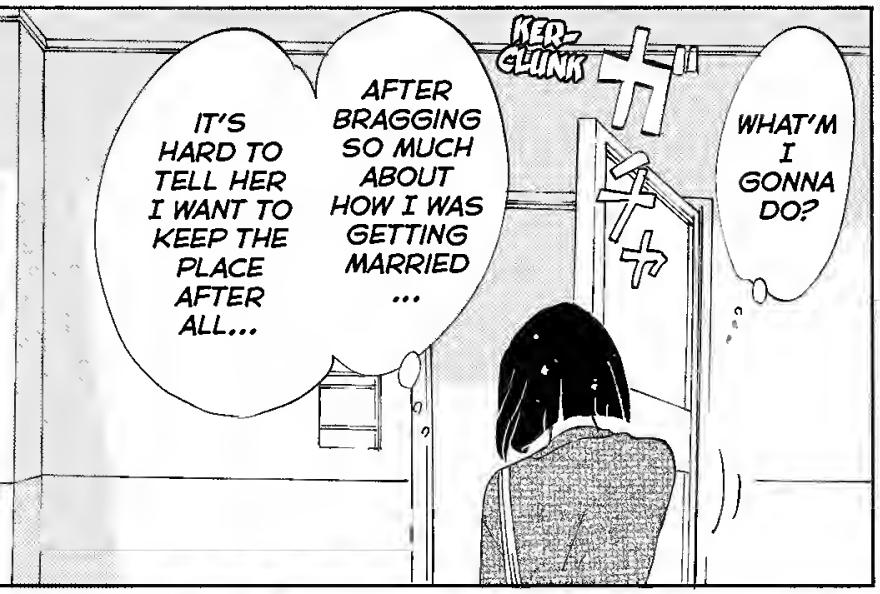

GREAT WORK, EVERY-ONE!
LOOK, MR. KEY!
THIS MAGAZINE COLUMN HAS NOTHING BUT GOOD TO SAY ABOUT "FALSE MARRIAGE" AGAIN!
THAT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR SCRIPT, MAMI.
OH NO!
IT'S ALL THANKS TO MY TEACHER, RINKO!
...


FLUTTER
BY THE WAY, IS THAT TEACHER OF YOURS REALLY GETTING MARRIED?
OH! YES!
I'M EVEN GONNA BE RENTING HER OFFICE!
HUH ...
OH! I KNOW!
WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT HOLDING A SURPRISE CONGRATULATIONS PARTY FOR HER.
IF YOU'D LIKE, FEEL FREE TO COME TOO, MR. KEY!
WHOA! MAMI?!


...
SURE.
HUH?!
WOW! IT DIDN'T TAKE MUCH TO CONVINCE YOU, MR. KEY!
WHEN ARE YOU HOLDING THIS PARTY?
DRIP
AHHH!
IT'S RAINING!
OH CRAP! EVERYONE OUT OF THE RAIN!

SHHHHH
WHOA! THAT'S GONNA BE IT FOR TODAY.
ALL RIGHT!
THEN LET'S HAVE THE PARTY TONIGHT!
CHACK
I'll call Rinko!

GOT NO PLACE TO SLEEP AT NIGHT...
AND NOW THAT I'M NOT GETTING MARRIED, I'VE...
MAMI TOOK MY BASE OF OPERATIONS...
SIGH...
PLOD PLOD
Rinko! The air conditioner's acting up!
Would you mind stopping by


KER-CLUNK
IT'S HARD TO TELL HER I WANT TO KEEP THE PLACE AFTER ALL...
AFTER BRAGGING SO MUCH ABOUT HOW I WAS GETTING MARRIED ...
WHAT'M I GONNA DO?

BANG

CONGRATU-
LATIONS,
RINKO!
PARTY
WEAPON

CONGRAT-
ULATIONS,
MA'AM.
HERE, A
PRESENT
FROM ME.
LOSER
AHAHA!
DID WE
SURPRISE
YOU?
LET'S
OPEN THE
CHAM-
PAGNE!
OH!
PIZZA
HUH
?!
...
WE
SPLIT
UP.
AND WHY
DON'T YOU
CALL YOUR
BOYFRIEND
TOO WHEN
HE GETS
OFF WORK
♡?
WE
BROKE
UP.
SORRY.
RUSTLE

NO.
I GUESS NOT.
...IS LAUGHING AT THIS RIDICU-LOUS SCENE.
THE ME FROM THE FUTURE...
THE FUTURE, OLDER ME IS PROBABLY CRYING, RIGHT?
SORRY I'M CLUMSY.

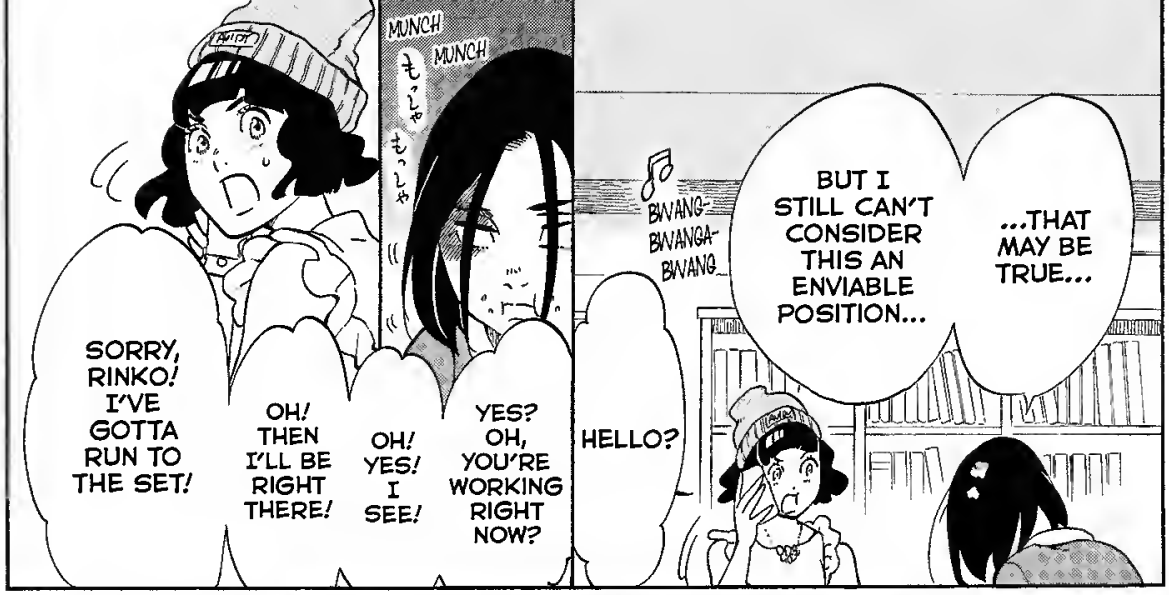
ACT
14
INVISIBLE WOMEN

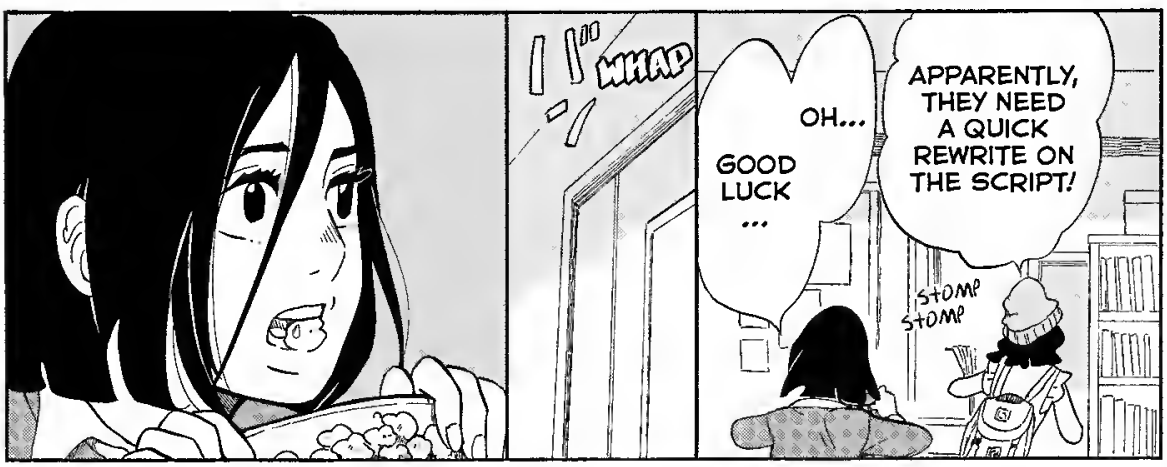
...IN THE MIDDLE OF TOKYO.

RIGHT THERE...

TONS OF THEM.

Don't you have anything better to do?!
I DON'T... HAVE ANY WORK...
...
THEN LET'S DO SOME WORK!! WORK!!
IF YOU'VE GOT THE ENERGY TO STAND IN LINE AT A POPCORN SHOP AT THE CRACK OF DAWN...
MUNCH
MUNCH
ポリ
ポリ
WE MAY BE SPLITTING IT, BUT YOU'VE STILL GOT TO COVER YOUR HALF!
YOU'VE STILL GOTTA PAY RENT FOR THIS OFFICE, YOU KNOW?
YEAH! I MAY BE YOUR APPRENTICE, BUT I'LL STILL PAY YOU!
...
ASSISTING...MY APPRENTICE...
HEH
PLEASE HELP ME WITH THE REWRITES ON THIS SCRIPT!
HERE!
SURE YOU DO!
FLOP
AVIDY
WAVE
WAVE
THERE'S PLENTY OF PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WHO CAN'T GO OUT WITH GUYS EVEN WHEN THEY WANT TO!
WHAT ARE YOU ACTING SO DEFEATED FOR?! JUST BECAUSE YOU BROKE UP WITH A GUY!
KAWAGOE...
I'M GONNA MOVE BACK IN WITH MY PARENTS ...
NO...I THINK ...
YOUR PARENTS? IN SAITAMA?!

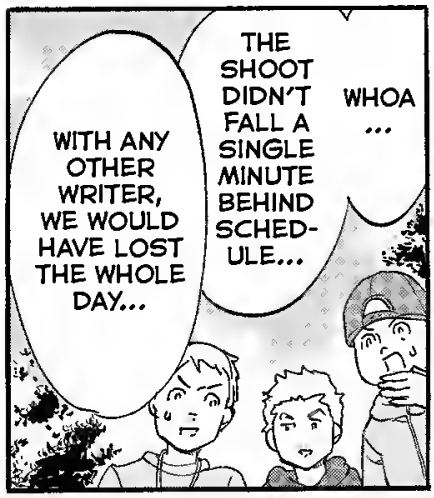

MUNCH
MUNCH
もっしゃ
もっしゃ
SORRY, RINKO! I'VE GOTTA RUN TO THE SET!
OH! THEN I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
OH! YES! I SEE!
YES? OH, YOU'RE WORKING RIGHT NOW?
HELLO?
BWANG-BWANGA-BWANG
BUT I STILL CAN'T CONSIDER THIS AN ENVIABLE POSITION...
...THAT MAY BE TRUE...


WHAP
GOOD LUCK ...
OH...
APPARENTLY, THEY NEED A QUICK REWRITE ON THE SCRIPT!
stomp stomp

THUNK

CUT!!
ALL RIGHT! OKAY!!
OH! MAMI'S HERE! THE WRITER!
THAT WAS FAST!
SHE'S HERE ALREADY ?!
BOY, THAT GIRL'S LIGHT ON HER FEET!
TMP TMP TMP
SORRY FOR THE SHORT NOTICE.
THE SPONSOR TOLD US WE CAN'T DO THIS SCENE AS-IS.
OH! I THOUGHT THAT MIGHT HAPPEN ...
...SO I WROTE THIS ALTERNATE VERSION LAST NIGHT!
HUH ?!
FWIP

BWANG-BWANGA-BWANG
HELLO?
SEE! THAT'S THEM!
THEY SHOULD FINISH READING IT RIGHT ABOUT—
OH! I EMAILED IT TO THEM ON THE WAY!
HEY! SEND THIS TO THE SPONSOR RIGHT AWAY!
OH, YEAH, THIS SHOULD BE FINE.

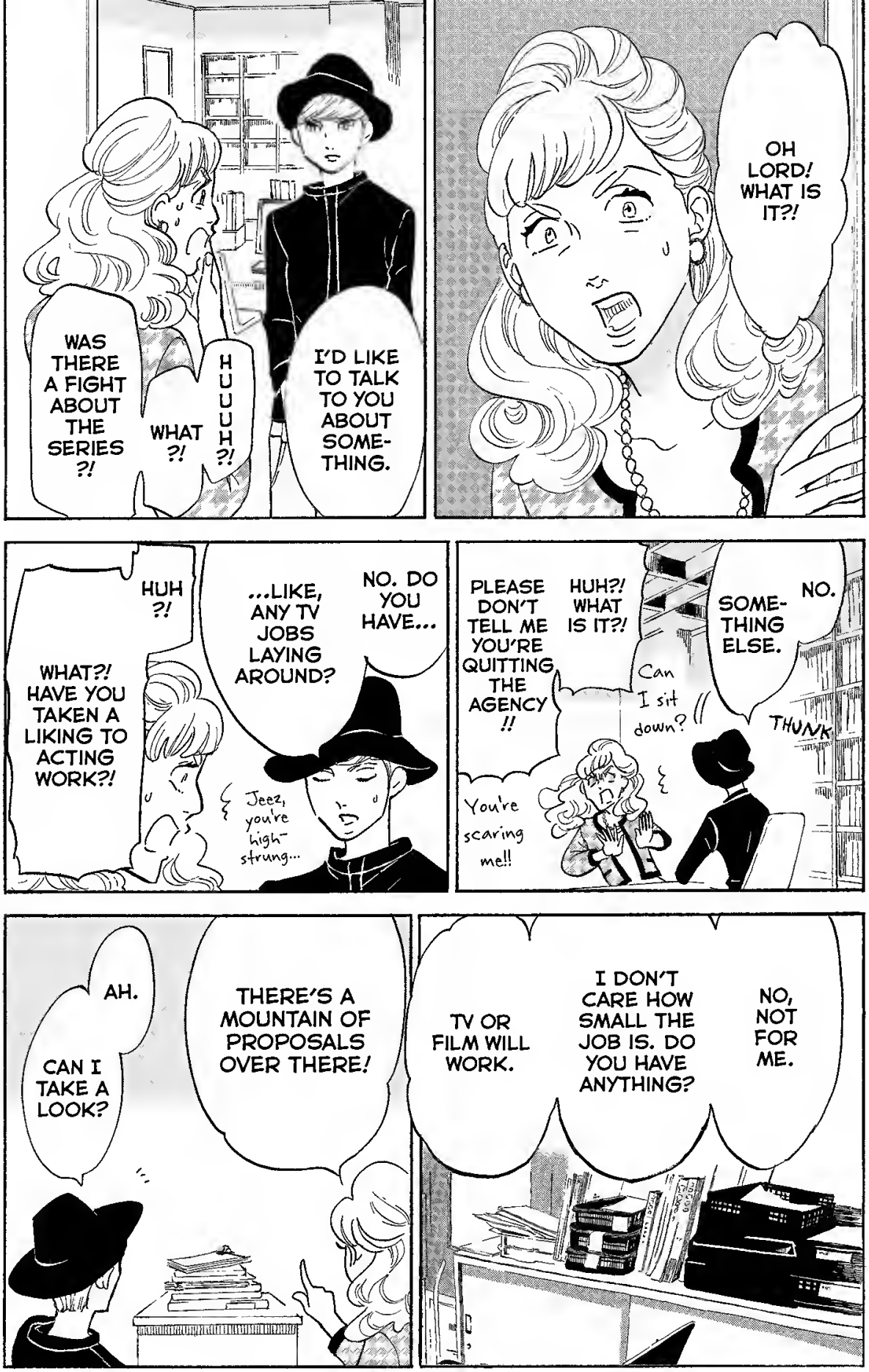

WHOA...
THE SHOOT DIDN'T FALL A SINGLE MINUTE BEHIND SCHEDULE...
WITH ANY OTHER WRITER, WE WOULD HAVE LOST THE WHOLE DAY...

あん WOW...
THUMBS-UP
THEY GAVE IT THEIR OKAY!
DIRECTOR!
OH, REALLY? THANK YOU!
YES! YES!

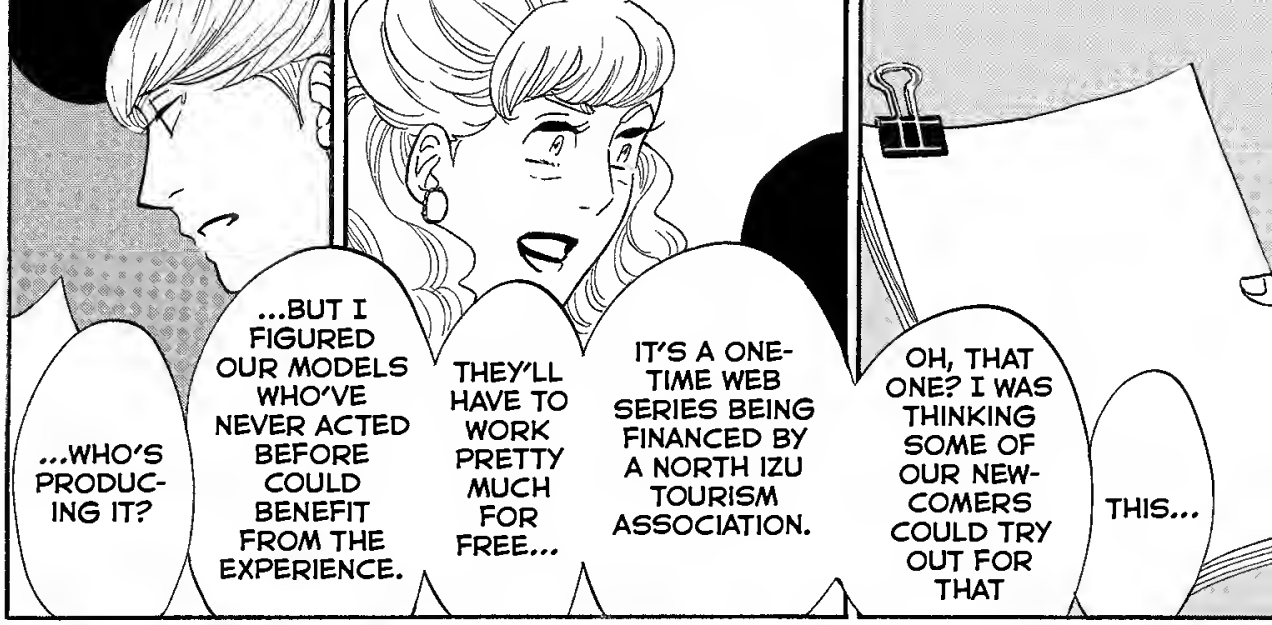
...

CLEVER, EFFICIENT, AND CONFIDENT, TOO, HUH?
BUT I GUESS SOME OF THEM REALLY DO HAVE GUTS!
I THOUGHT KIDS THESE DAYS WERE ALL WORTHLESS IDIOTS...
I'll go make copies!

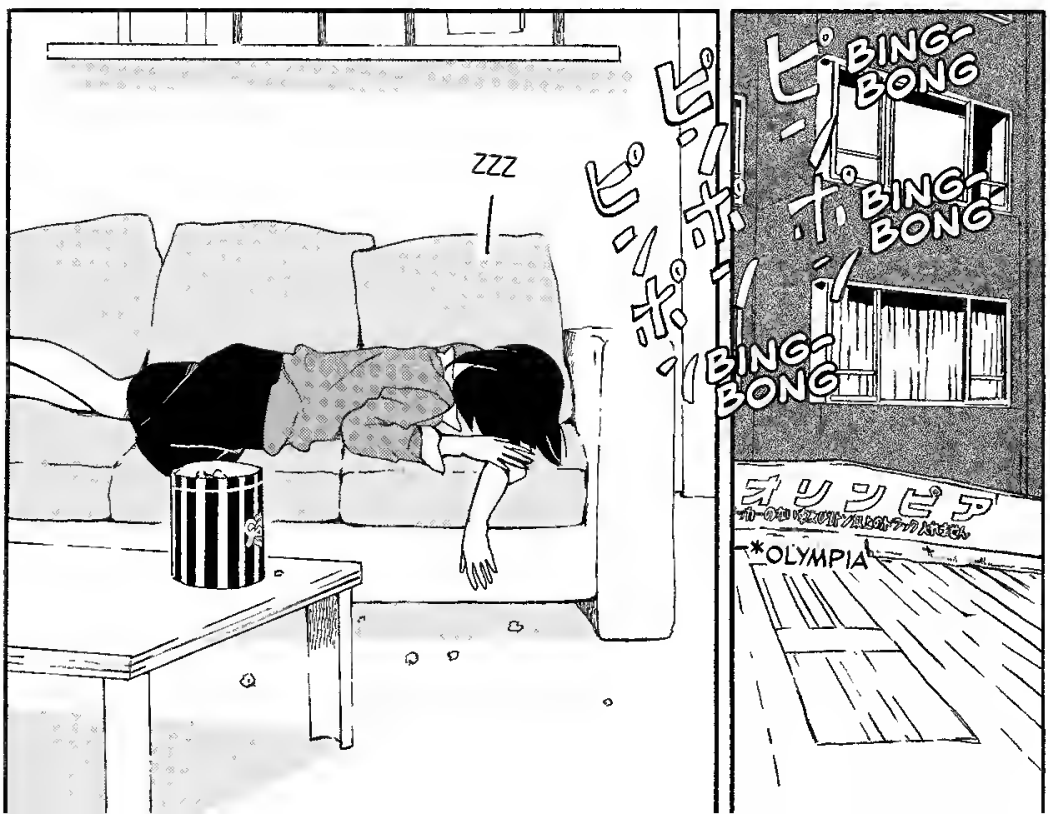
H&R
model agency
MR. KEY!
GOSH, YOU DON'T COME TO THE OFFICE MUCH...
OH!
IS THE CHIEF HERE?
I NEED TO TALK TO THE CHIEF.
CHIEF!
MR. KEY IS HERE!
HUUUUH?!
KER-CHUNK
ガチャ
Here, I brought you guys some chocolates.


I'D LIKE TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOME-THING.
HUUUUH?!
WHAT?!
WAS THERE A FIGHT ABOUT THE SERIES?!
OH LORD! WHAT IS IT?!
NO. DO YOU HAVE...
...LIKE, ANY TV JOBS LAYING AROUND?
HUH?!
WHAT?! HAVE YOU TAKEN A LIKING TO ACTING WORK?!
Jeez, you're high-strung...
NO.
SOME-THING ELSE.
HUH?! WHAT IS IT?!
PLEASE DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE QUITTING THE AGENCY!!
Can I sit down?
THUNK
You're scaring me!!
AH.
CAN I TAKE A LOOK?
THERE'S A MOUNTAIN OF PROPOSALS OVER THERE!
TV OR FILM WILL WORK.
I DON'T CARE HOW SMALL THE JOB IS. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING?
NO, NOT FOR ME.

I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE FINALLY SHOWING SOME REAL MOTIVATION !!
NOW WE WON'T JUST BE A MODELING AGENCY, BUT A BIG ENTERTAINMENT GROUP WITH ALL SORTS OF POPULAR ACTORS—
CAN YOU BE QUIET FOR A SECOND, CHIEF?
WHY? I'M REALLY HAPPY RIGHT NOW.
WHEN I FOUND YOU THAT DAY...
...SIX YEARS AGO... YOU WERE STILL JUST A TEENAGER...
I NEVER EVEN DREAMED YOU WOULD BOUNCE BACK LIKE THIS!
STAGGER よろよろ
THERE YOU GO AGAIN...
OH!
RUSTLE パラ


OH, THAT ONE? I WAS THINKING SOME OF OUR NEW-COMERS COULD TRY OUT FOR THAT
THIS...
IT'S A ONE-TIME WEB SERIES BEING FINANCED BY A NORTH IZU TOURISM ASSOCIATION.
THEY'LL HAVE TO WORK PRETTY MUCH FOR FREE...
...BUT I FIGURED OUR MODELS WHO'VE NEVER ACTED BEFORE COULD BENEFIT FROM THE EXPERIENCE.
...WHO'S PRODUC-ING IT?

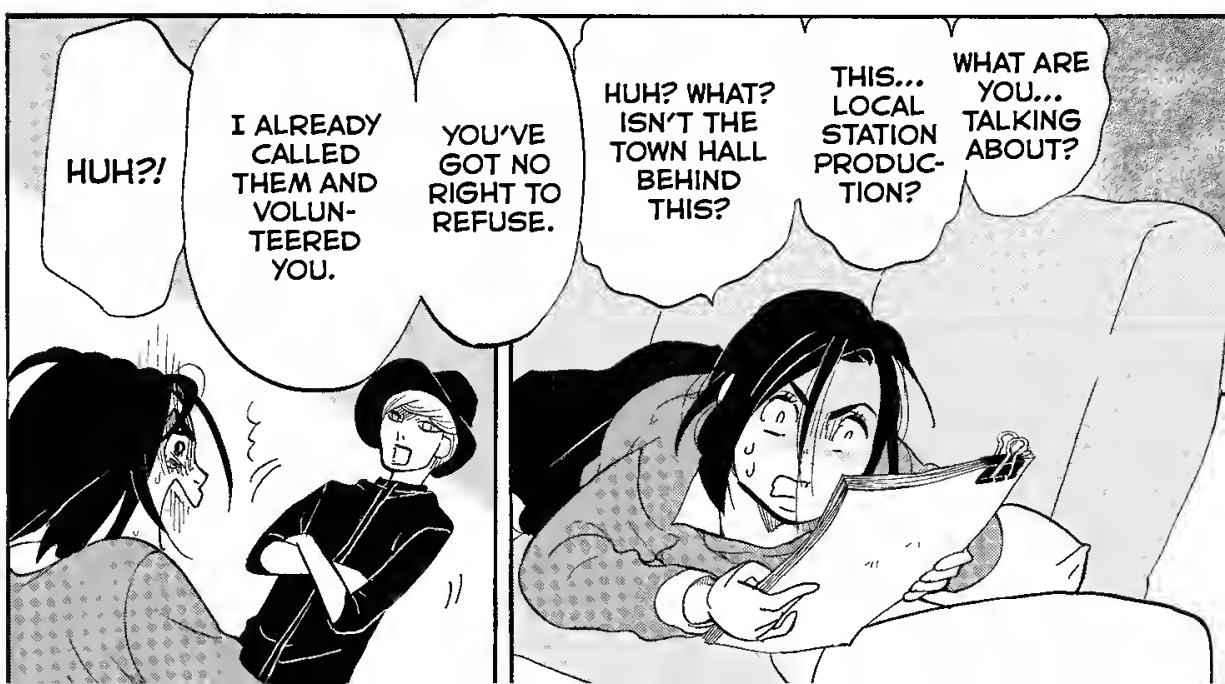
I THINK ONE OF THE LOCAL CABLE STATIONS' STAFF IS SUPPOSED TO FILM IT.
THAT'S HOW IT IS EVERYWHERE. NO ONE WANTS TO SPEND MONEY.
WHAP
HUH.
I LIKE IT.
HUH ?!


ZZZ
ピンポーン
ピンポーン
BING-BONG
BING-BONG
BING-BONG
オリンピア
*OLYMPIA

KER-CHUNK
ZZZ
TMP TMP
HEY! WAKE UP!
YOUR DOOR WAS UN-LOCKED! THAT'S JUST CARE-LESS!
ZZZ
WHA?
WHUMP
SNRK!
WHAP
I SAID WAKE UP!!
I'M SO UN-EMPLOYED AND UN-MARRIAGE-ABLE THAT THE GRIM REAPER CAME FOR ME!
EEEEEK!
READ THIS.
RUSTLE
RIGHT NOW.
YARGH!
LOOM
THE GRIM REAPER!!

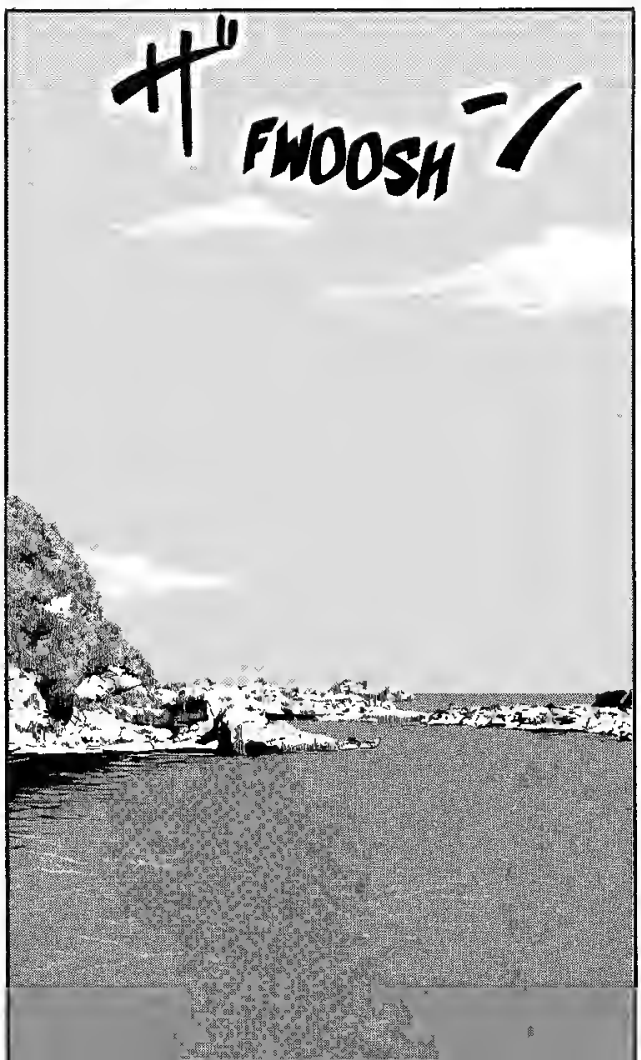
I CALLED THEM BEFORE I CAME. THEY STILL HAVEN'T FOUND A WRITER.
A TOURISM ASSOCIA-TION-SPONSORED WEB SERIES?
NORTH IZU?
WHAT THE?
DO IT.

TAKE THE JOB.
WRITE THE SCRIPT FOR THIS SERIES.

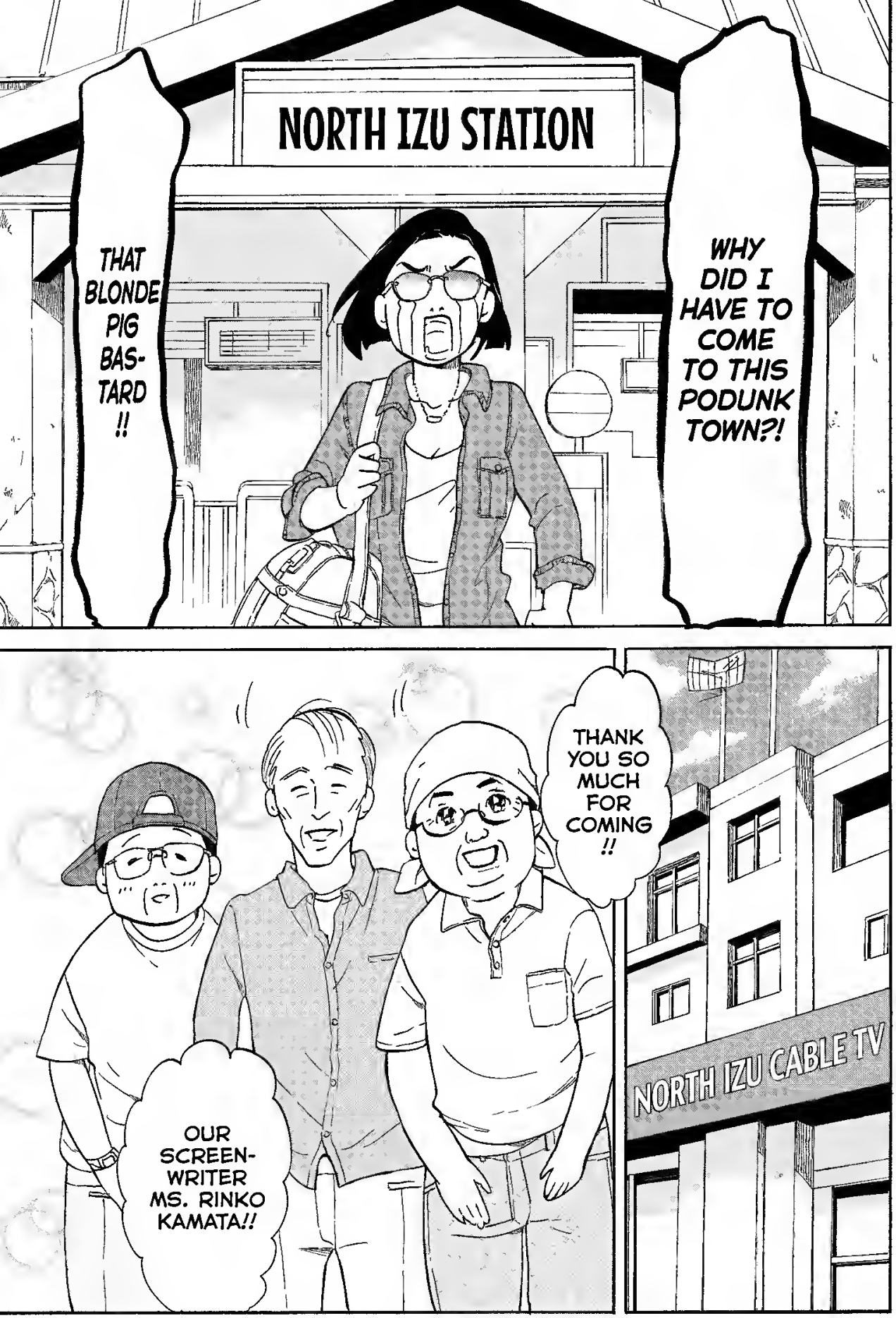

WHAT ARE YOU... TALKING ABOUT?
THIS... LOCAL STATION PRODUC-TION?
HUH? WHAT? ISN'T THE TOWN HALL BEHIND THIS?
YOU'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO REFUSE.
I ALREADY CALLED THEM AND VOLUN-TEERED YOU.
HUH?!

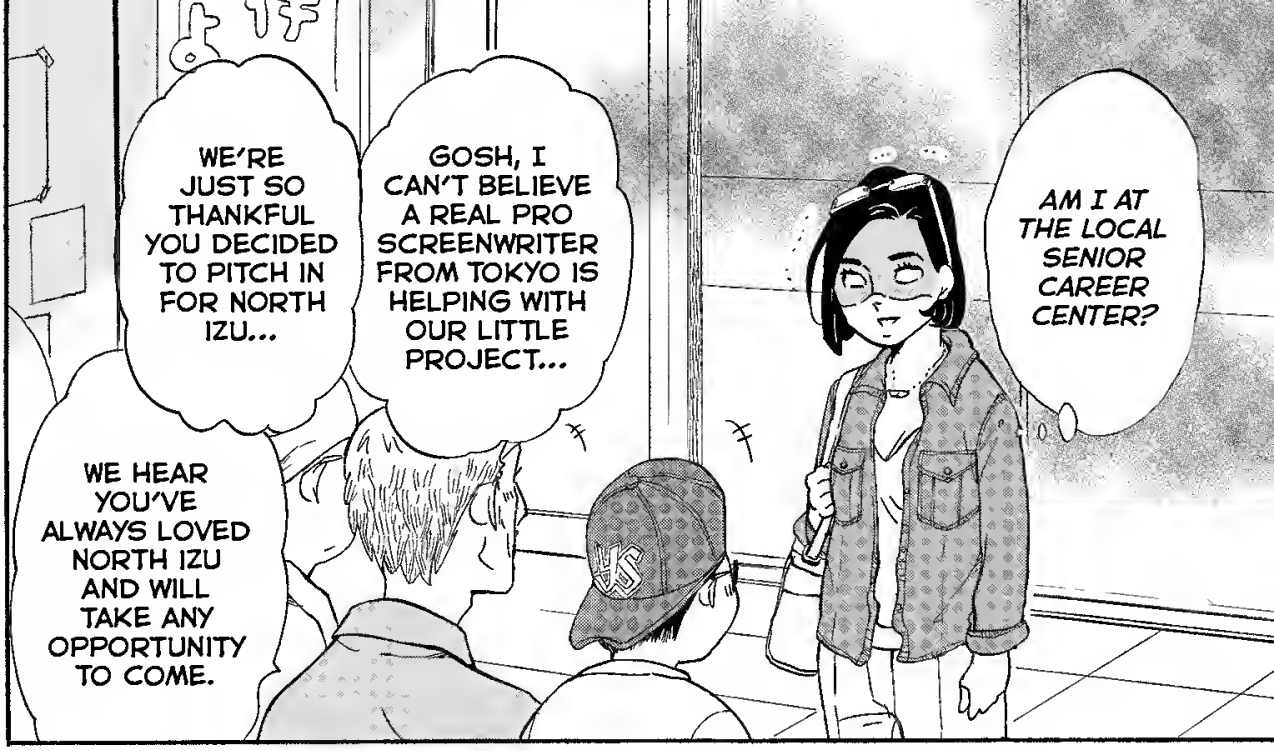
GET PACKING.
O-Oh jeez...
RUSTLE
HERE.
I BOOKED YOU A HOTEL, TOO.
THEY SAID THE PRO-DUCTION MEETINGS START TOMORROW.

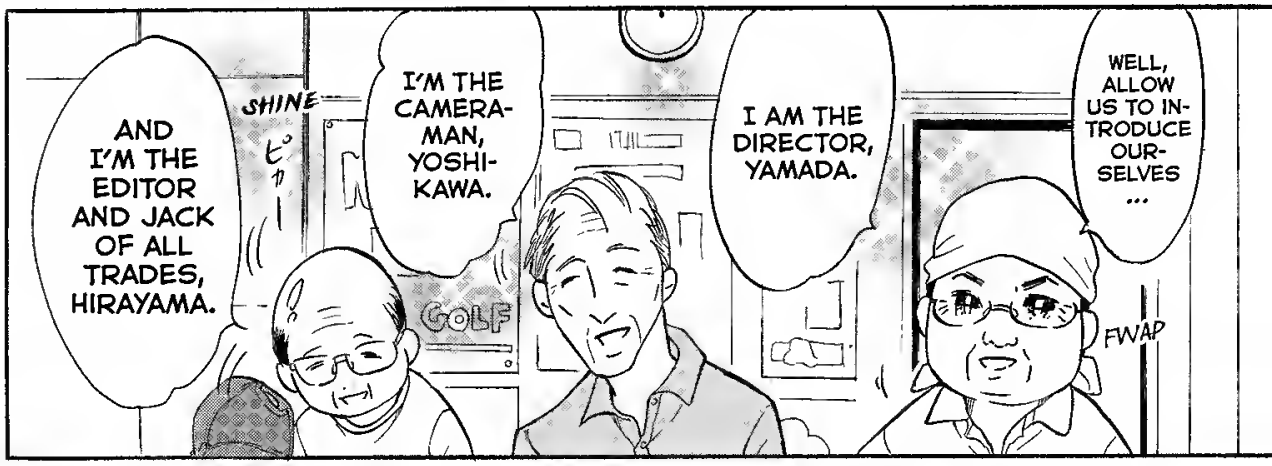
WH-
WH-

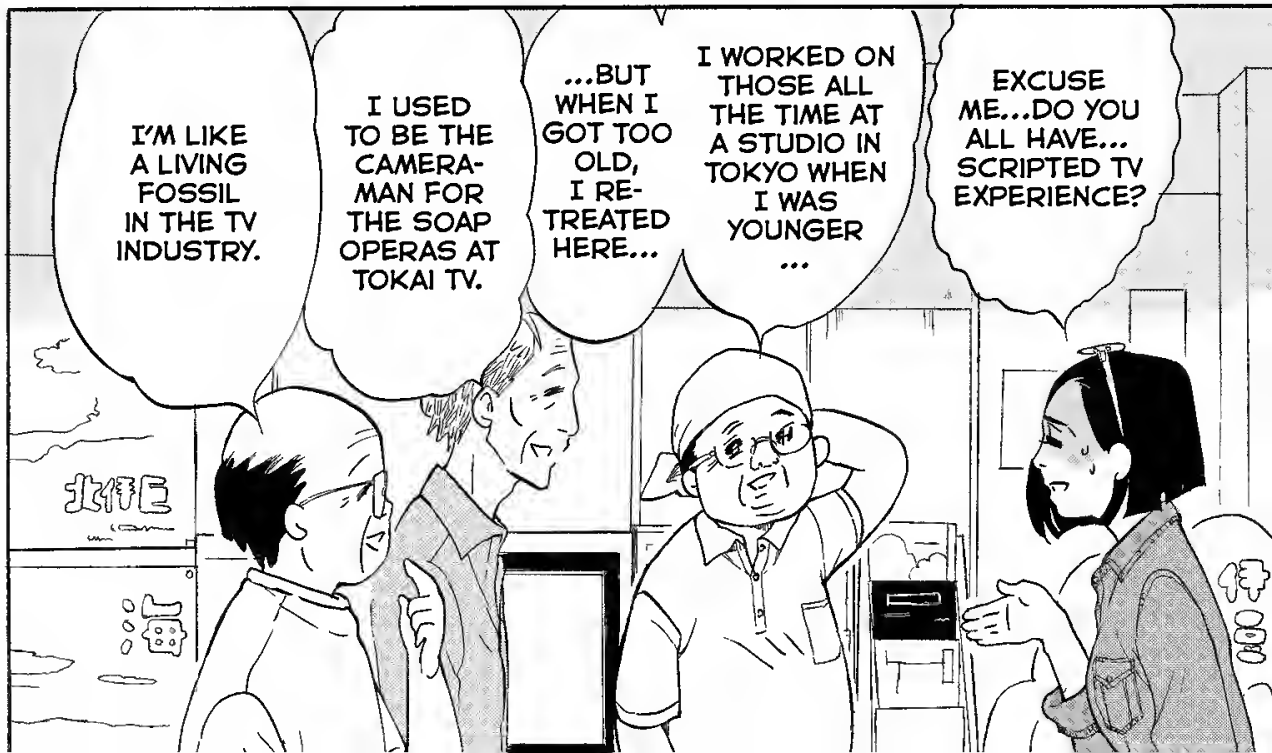

FWOOSH

WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS CRUMMY JOB?!
ZOOM


NORTH IZU STATION
THAT BLONDE PIG BAS-TARD !!
WHY DID I HAVE TO COME TO THIS PODUNK TOWN?!
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR COMING !!
OUR SCREEN-WRITER MS. RINKO KAMATA!!
NORTH IZU CABLE TV

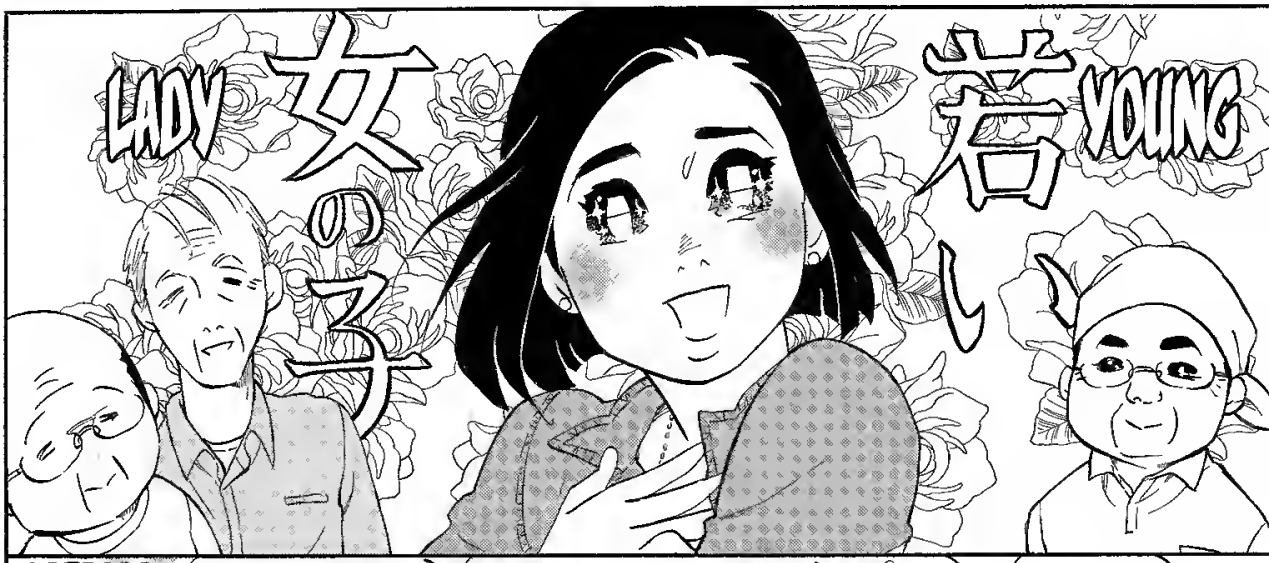

AM I AT THE LOCAL SENIOR CAREER CENTER?
GOSH, I CAN'T BELIEVE A REAL PRO SCREENWRITER FROM TOKYO IS HELPING WITH OUR LITTLE PROJECT...
WE'RE JUST SO THANKFUL YOU DECIDED TO PITCH IN FOR NORTH IZU...
WE HEAR YOU'VE ALWAYS LOVED NORTH IZU AND WILL TAKE ANY OPPORTUNITY TO COME.

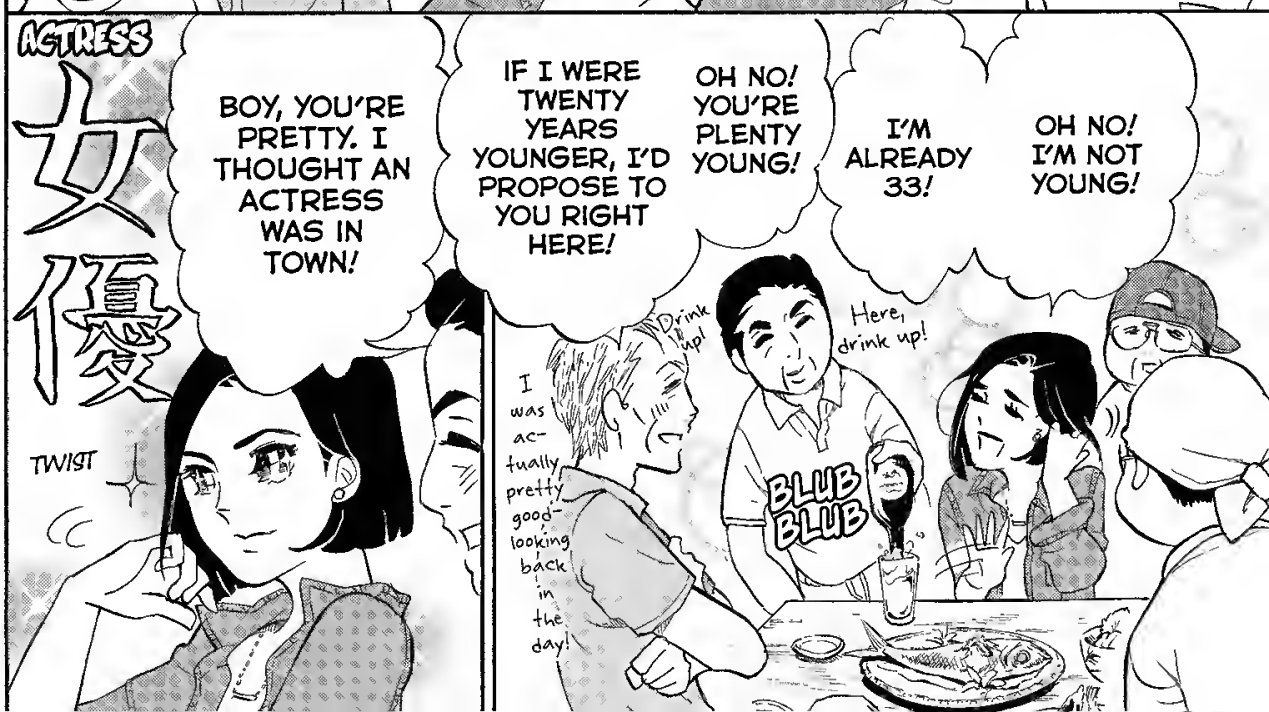

WELL, ALLOW US TO INTRODUCE OURSELVES ...
FWAP
I AM THE DIRECTOR, YAMADA.
I'M THE CAMERAMAN, YOSHIKAWA.
SHINE
ピカー
GOLF
AND I'M THE EDITOR AND JACK OF ALL TRADES, HIRAYAMA.


EXCUSE ME...DO YOU ALL HAVE... SCRIPTED TV EXPERIENCE?
I WORKED ON THOSE ALL THE TIME AT A STUDIO IN TOKYO WHEN I WAS YOUNGER ...
...BUT WHEN I GOT TOO OLD, I RETREATED HERE...
I USED TO BE THE CAMERAMAN FOR THE SOAP OPERAS AT TOKAI TV.
I'M LIKE A LIVING FOSSIL IN THE TV INDUSTRY.

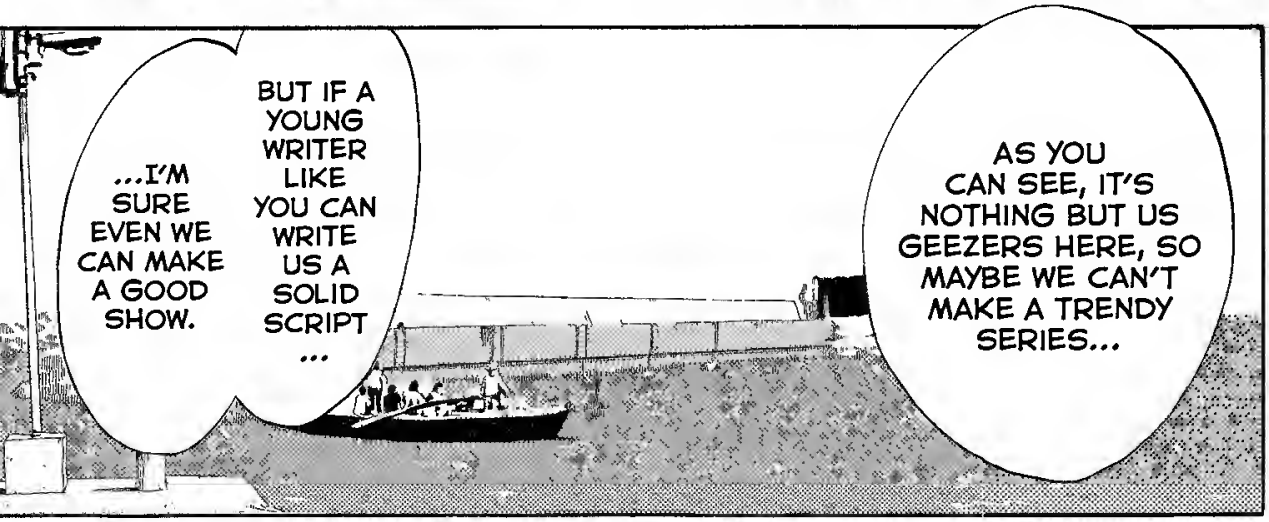
WELL, WE'RE MAKING THIS SERIES TO BE SEEN BY YOUNG PEOPLE! SO WE WANTED A YOUNG PERSON TO WRITE THE SCRIPT!
Y-
YOUNG?
HUH?!
WE FEEL VERY REASSURED HAVING SUCH A YOUNG WOMAN ON THE TEAM!
PHEW! BOY!
ドヨ
ヒ°BA-ZING
ギラリ
STARE
DO YOU DRINK, MS. KAMATA?
OH, I LOVE TO DRINK.
THEY SERVE SOME REALLY GREAT LOCAL FISH!
...GO TO THIS GREAT SEAFOOD PLACE NEARBY?!
ALL RIGHT, MS. KAMATA! FOR OUR MEETING, WHY DON'T WE...
HUH?!
BOING

HUUUH ?!
THIS YOUNG LADY IS THE WRITER?!


LADY
女の子
若い
YOUNG

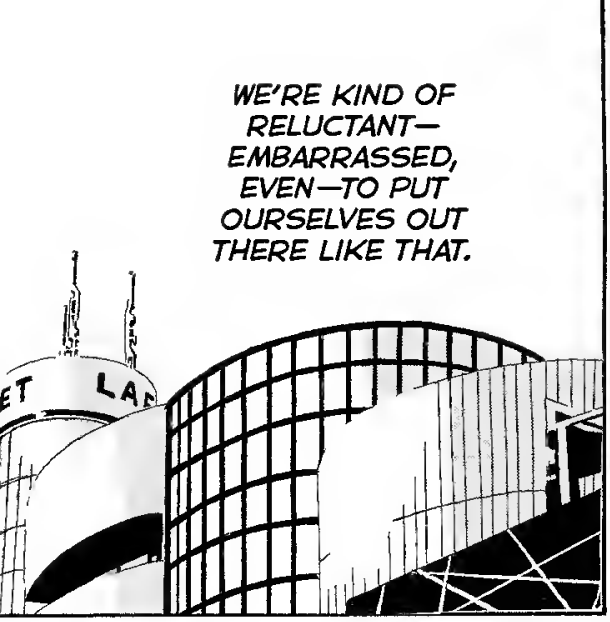

ACTRESS
女優
TWIST
BOY, YOU'RE PRETTY. I THOUGHT AN ACTRESS WAS IN TOWN!
IF I WERE TWENTY YEARS YOUNGER, I'D PROPOSE TO YOU RIGHT HERE!
OH NO! YOU'RE PLENTY YOUNG!
I'M ALREADY 33!
OH NO! I'M NOT YOUNG!
Drink up!
Here, drink up!
I was actually pretty good-looking back in the day!
BLUB BLUB

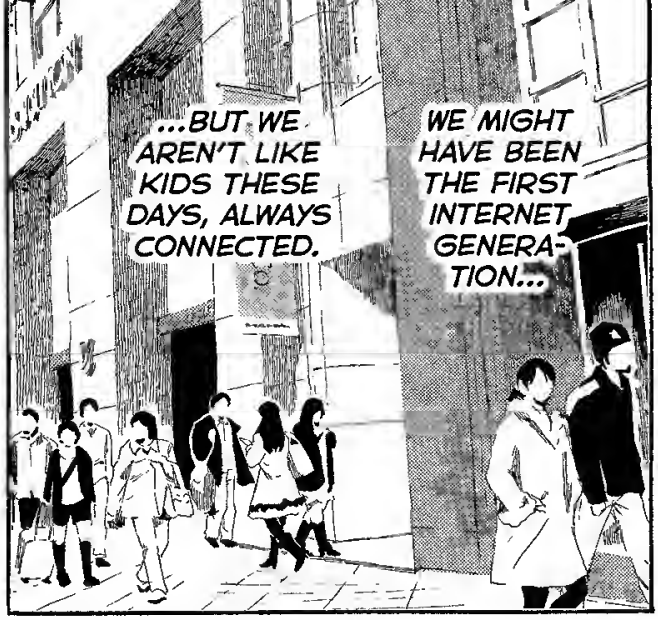
BUT WE REALLY ARE GLAD TO HAVE YOU, MS. KAMATA.
WE'VE GOT A LOT OF HOPES FOR THIS SERIES.
YEAH! WE WERE ALL TALKING ABOUT HOW TO TURN THIS PLACE BACK INTO THE KIND OF HOT SPRINGS TOWN YOUNG PEOPLE LOVE...
...AND TRIED TO FIGURE OUT WHAT WE COULD DO WITH THE TOWN HALL'S TOURISM DEPART-MENT.


AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S NOTHING BUT US GEEZERS HERE, SO MAYBE WE CAN'T MAKE A TRENDY SERIES...
BUT IF A YOUNG WRITER LIKE YOU CAN WRITE US A SOLID SCRIPT ...
...I'M SURE EVEN WE CAN MAKE A GOOD SHOW.

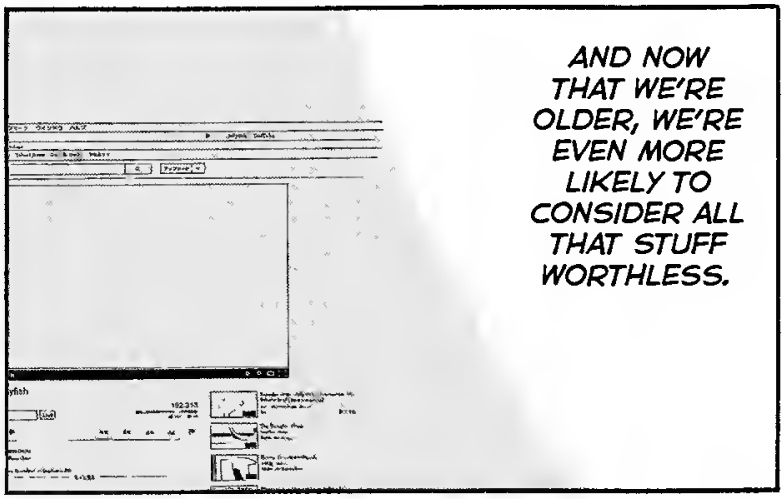
THIS IS AN AGE WHERE YOU CAN BROADCAST A SERIES OVER THE INTERNET FOR FREE.
IF WE WORK HARD TO MAKE A GOOD SHOW, I'M SURE IT WILL REACH SOMEONE OUT THERE IN JAPAN.
AND IF EVEN ONE PERSON THAT SEES THIS SERIES COMES TO VISIT OUR TOWN...

I THINK OUR HARD WORK WILL HAVE MEANT SOMETHING.
THEY'VE GOT ME TOTALLY BEAT.
MY THOUGHTS ARE EVEN STUFFIER THAN THESE OLD MEN'S.
I'VE GOT IT BAD.
AHHH.

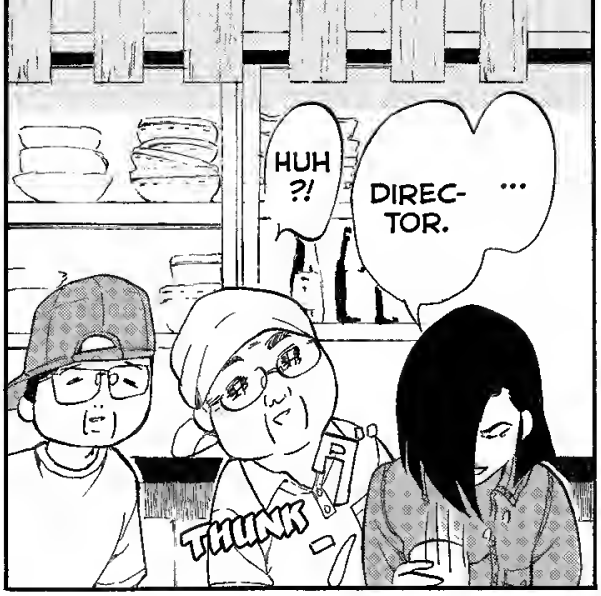

WE'RE KIND OF RELUCTANT— EMBARRASSED, EVEN—TO PUT OURSELVES OUT THERE LIKE THAT.


...BUT WE AREN'T LIKE KIDS THESE DAYS, ALWAYS CONNECTED.
WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE FIRST INTERNET GENERATION...

AND AT SOME POINT, WE GOT IN THE HABIT OF ALWAYS APPROACHING THINGS NEGATIVELY.


AND NOW THAT WE'RE OLDER, WE'RE EVEN MORE LIKELY TO CONSIDER ALL THAT STUFF WORTHLESS.

I FORGOT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING OF ALL.
SO I MOCKED AND DISMISSED THIS LITTLE PROJECT.
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.

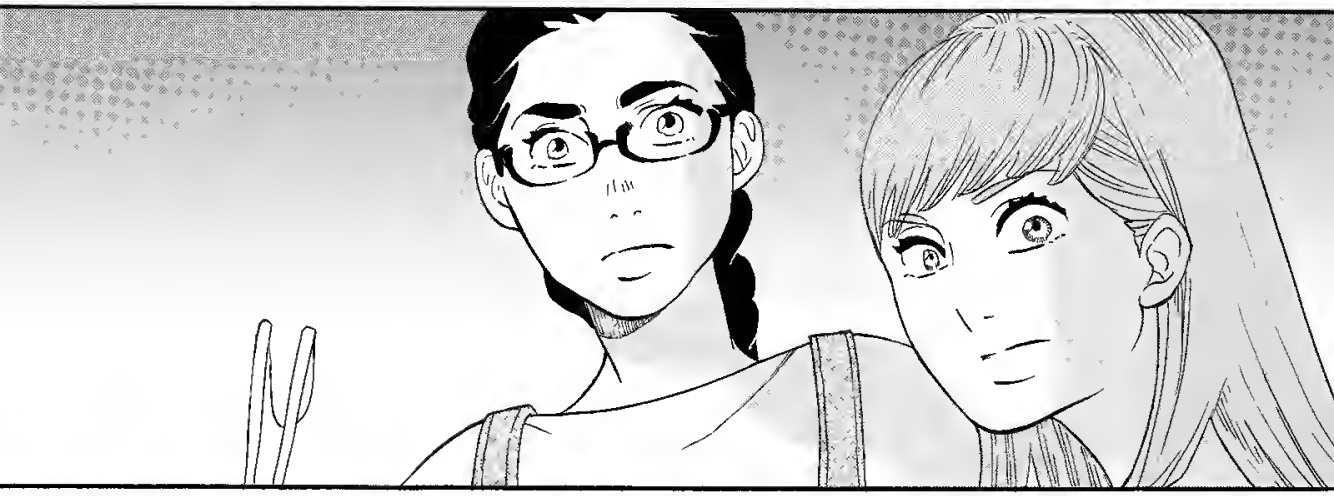


OF COURSE I CAN'T WRITE A GOOD SCRIPT WITH THAT PERSPEC-TIVE.

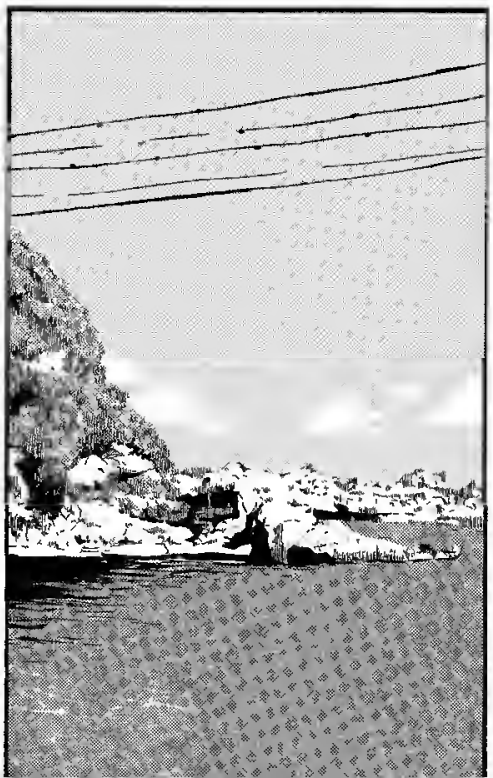
No! Let's send it all over the wooorld !!
Oh man! Get me a rag!
A ha ha ha!
CRASH
ARGH!
WHOA! YOU'RE DRUNK, MS. KAMATA!
LET'S MAKE A SHOW SO GOOD THE WHOLE TOWN'LL BE FLOODED WITH PEOPLE IT REACHED!
CRASH

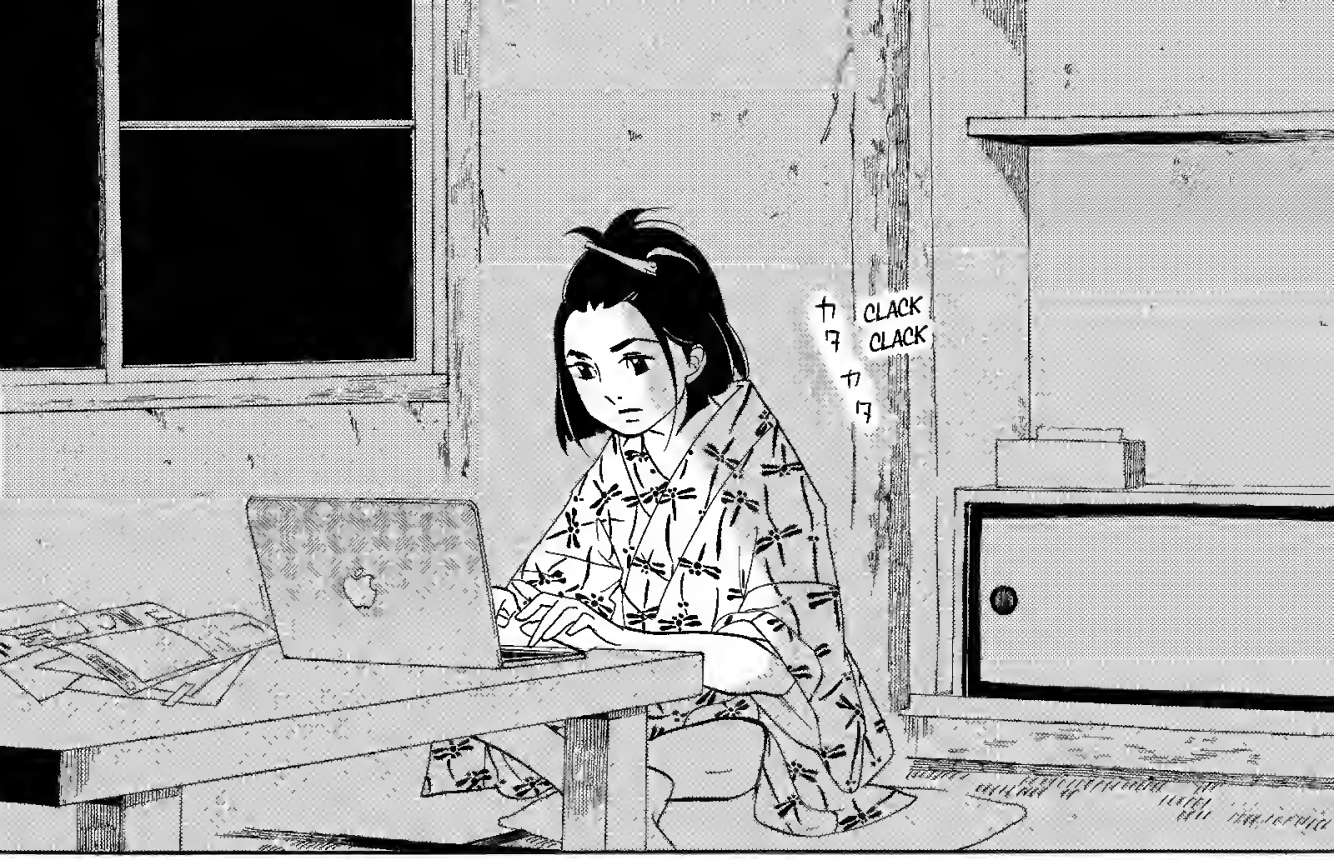
PUB
HUH.
NORTH IZU?
YEP.
I'LL BET SHE'S EATING FRESH FISH AND DRINKING LOCAL-MADE SAKE AS WE SPEAK.
OH.
MAYBE I'LL HAVE SAKE TONIGHT TOO.
WHAT?! RINKO!! YOU WENT ON A TRIP TO GET OVER YOUR BREAKUP?! YOU GOTTA INVITE US FOR THAT!!
IN FACT, WOW, SHE'S GOT A LOT OF FREE TIME!! SHE GOT HUNG OUT TO DRY AT WORK...
...AND I'M ACTU-ALLY KIND OF JEAL-OUS!!
NO...
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.

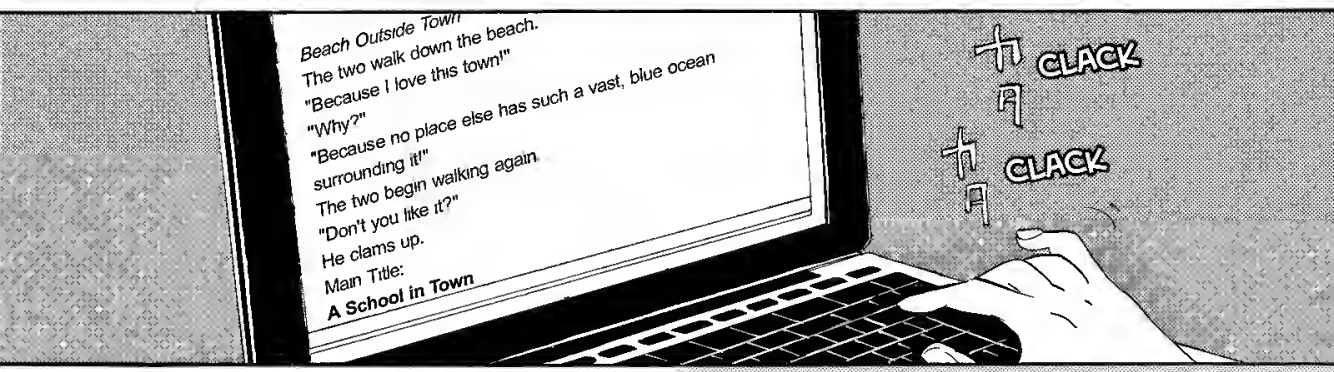
IF SHE GETS DEAD DRUNK LIKE USUAL THIS TIME, EVEN I'LL GIVE UP.



割烹旅館
伊豆旅館
INN AND RESTAURANT
IZU RYOKAN




CLACK
CLACK


Beach Outside Town
The two walk down the beach.
"Because I love this town!"
"Why?"
"Because no place else has such a vast, blue ocean surrounding it!"
The two begin walking again.
"Don't you like it?"
He clams up.
Main Title:
A School in Town
CLACK
CLACK

CLACK
CLACK
SEASONAL NORTH IZU
NORTH IZU STROLLING MAP
NORTH IZU BY BUS
STANDARD COURSE
WALK THE BEACH
TASTE IZU
ENJOY THE WATERS

I'LL WRITE.

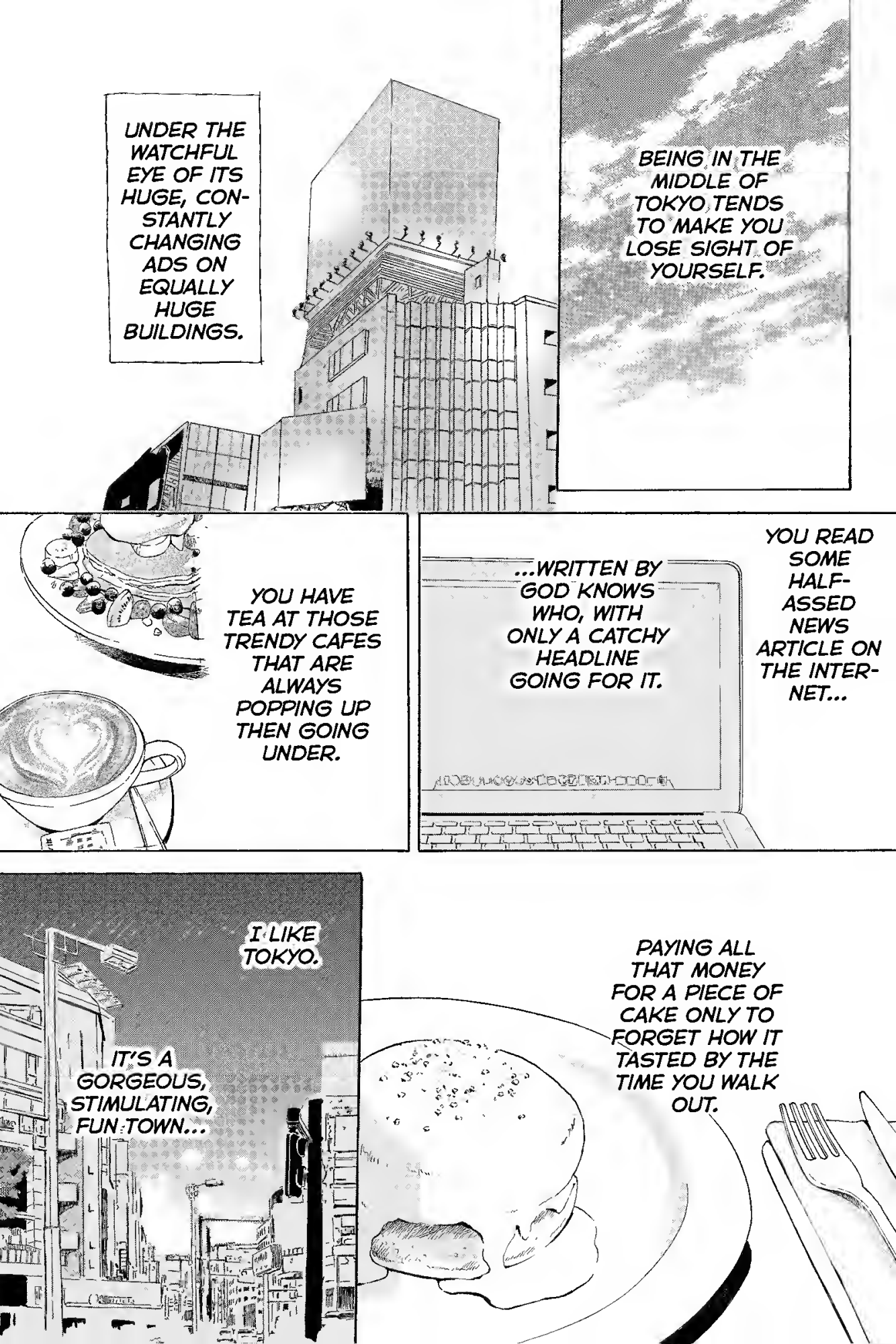
IN THIS DAY AND AGE, THE POSSIBILITIES ARE INFINTE.

NO MATTER HOW SMALL THE JOB IS.

LIKE THOSE MEN SAID...

SO WHY WAS I SO BLIND?

THESE MIDDLE-AGED MEN FROM A PODUNK LITTLE TOWN COULD SEE THAT.


UNDER THE WATCHFUL EYE OF ITS HUGE, CONSTANTLY CHANGING ADS ON EQUALLY HUGE BUILDINGS.
BEING IN THE MIDDLE OF TOKYO TENDS TO MAKE YOU LOSE SIGHT OF YOURSELF.
YOU HAVE TEA AT THOSE TRENDY CAFES THAT ARE ALWAYS POPPING UP THEN GOING UNDER.
...WRITTEN BY GOD KNOWS WHO, WITH ONLY A CATCHY HEADLINE GOING FOR IT.
YOU READ SOME HALF-ASSED NEWS ARTICLE ON THE INTERNET...
I LIKE TOKYO.
IT'S A GORGEOUS, STIMULATING, FUN-TOWN...
PAYING ALL THAT MONEY FOR A PIECE OF CAKE ONLY TO FORGET HOW IT TASTED BY THE TIME YOU WALK OUT.

IT FEELS LIKE AS I GET OLDER, MY SENSE OF SELF IS MELTING INTO THE CITY.
I WONDER WHAT I'LL BE LIKE.
TOKYO OLYMPIC
I WONDER WHAT IT'LL BE LIKE BY THE TIME THE OLYMPICS ARRIVE.
A TRANSPARENT, EMPTY OLD WOMAN...
I'LL PROB-ABLY BE ABSORBED BY THE CITY...

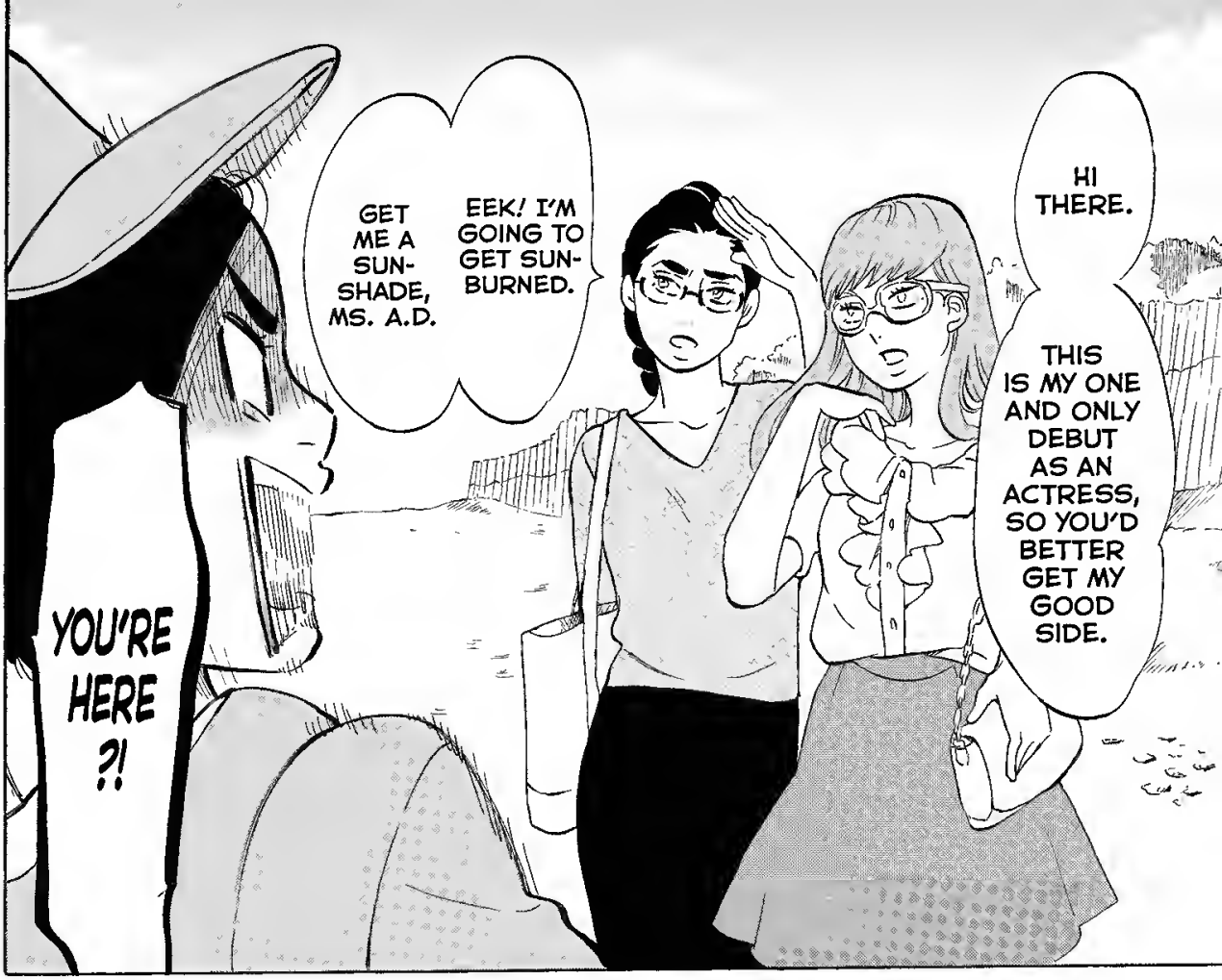
AN INVISIBLE WOMAN NOBODY NOTICES, LIVING IN TOKYO.
SKREEK
キュ
I'LL CLING TO HOPE, ONE MORE TIME.
I'D BETTER GET BACK TO WORK.

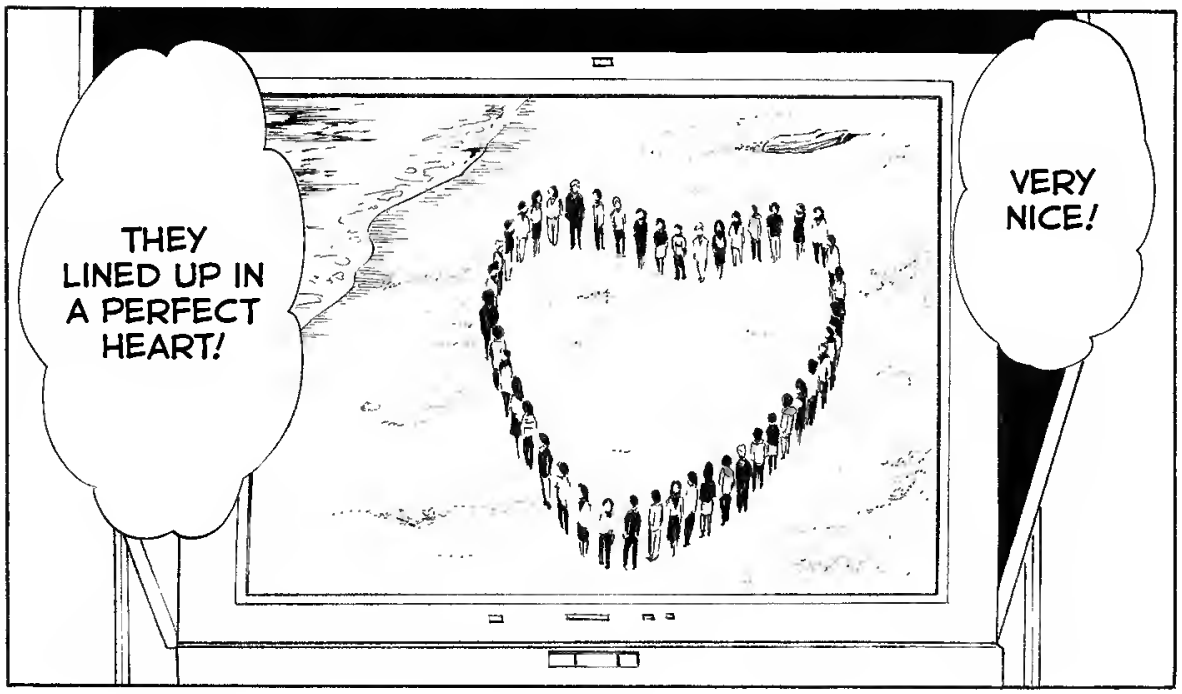
I'VE AT LEAST GOT TO KEEP WHATEVER'S LEFT OF MYSELF FROM MELTING AWAY.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S START FILMING.
ON YOUR MARKS ...
ACTION !!
HEY!
I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

LET'S WRITE A MESSAGE ON THE BEACH!
HUH?
NO ONE'LL BE ABLE TO SEE IT!
OF COURSE THEY CAN! YOU CAN SEE IT FROM THE OBSERVATION DECK ON NORTH IZU MISAKI!
HUUUH?!
YOU CAN'T SEE THAT FAR EVEN WITH PERFECT VISION!
DON'T WORRY! I'VE GOT A WAY!
AND... CUT!
THAT WAS GREAT!
THANK YOU.
SHE REALLY IS A GOOD ACTOR FOR A LOCAL THEATER CLUB KID.
AND SHE'S CUTE TOO.
She'll bring a freshness we wouldn't get if we used a real actress.
THE OWNER OF THAT SEAFOOD RESTAURANT INTRODUCED US TO A GIRL THAT WAS A PERFECT FIT FOR YOUR SCRIPT, MS. KAMATA.
ALL RIGHT! NOW...
BRING IN THE EXTRAS!
MS. KAMATA, HELP GET THEM IN PLACE!
STOMP STOMP
OH! ROGER!

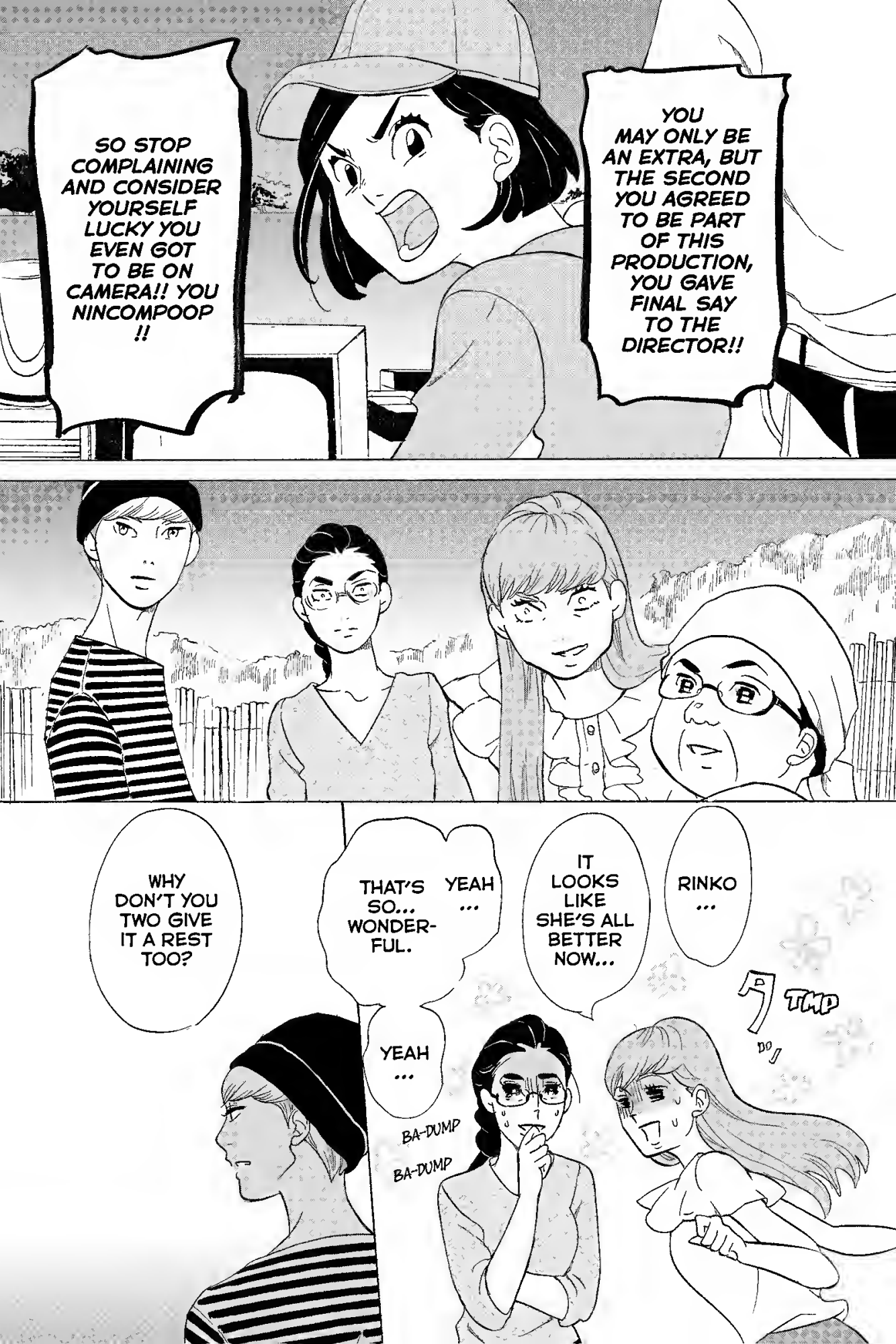
にょーん SPROING
HUH?!
THERE'S LIKE...
O... ONE...
REALLY BIG EXTRA...
BUT...
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
SO YOU SPOTTED ME, EH?
IN ONE SECOND FLAT.
OF COURSE I SPOTTED YOU!! IN FACT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE ANYWAY?!
I BET YOU JUST SHOWED UP TO RAIN ON MY PARADE YET AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?!
YOU'RE JUST HERE TO MAKE FUN OF ME, AREN'T YOU?!

I CAME TO SEE THE PATHETIC FACE OF A WOMAN WHO RETREATED INTO WORK AFTER HER MARRIAGE FELL THROUGH.
YEAH.
MAYBE I AM.
GOOD FOR YOU. THEY'RE CALLING YOU "MS. KAMATA" AND FUSSING OVER YOU.
YEAH, YEAH.
I'M THE WRITER !!
I'M NOT THE A.D.!!
We don't have enough staff is all!
HURRY NOW! THE CLOUDS ARE COMING OUT!
WHA?!
ムカー
RARGH!!
MS. KAMATA! GET THEM IN PLACE QUICK!
LISTEN, MS. ASSISTANT DIRECTOR. THEY'RE CALLING YOU.
HUH?!
AND I BROUGHT ALONG TWO MORE GUESTS WHO WANT TO BE FUSSED OVER.
OH.


YOU'RE HERE ?!
GET ME A SUN-SHADE, MS. A.D.
EEK! I'M GOING TO GET SUN-BURNED.
HI THERE.
THIS IS MY ONE AND ONLY DEBUT AS AN ACTRESS, SO YOU'D BETTER GET MY GOOD SIDE.

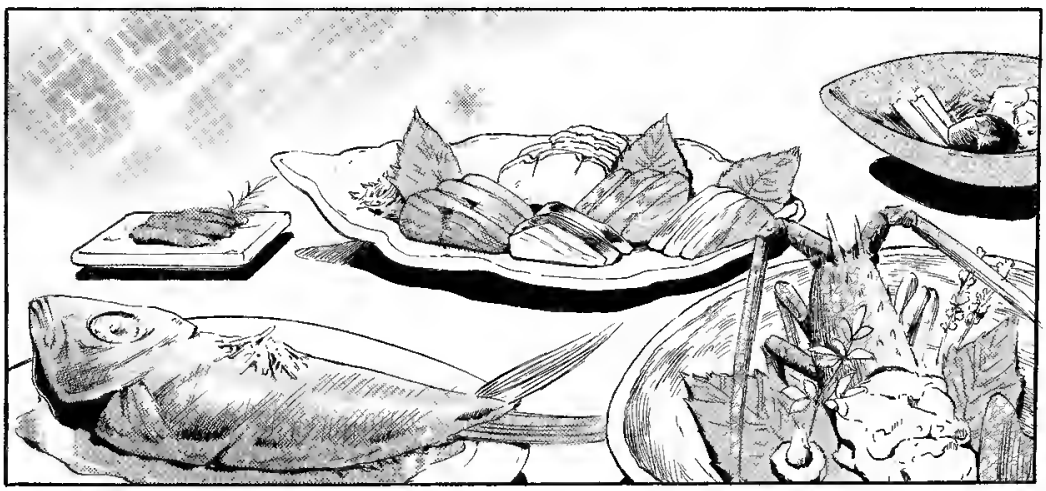

THEY LINED UP IN A PERFECT HEART!
VERY NICE!

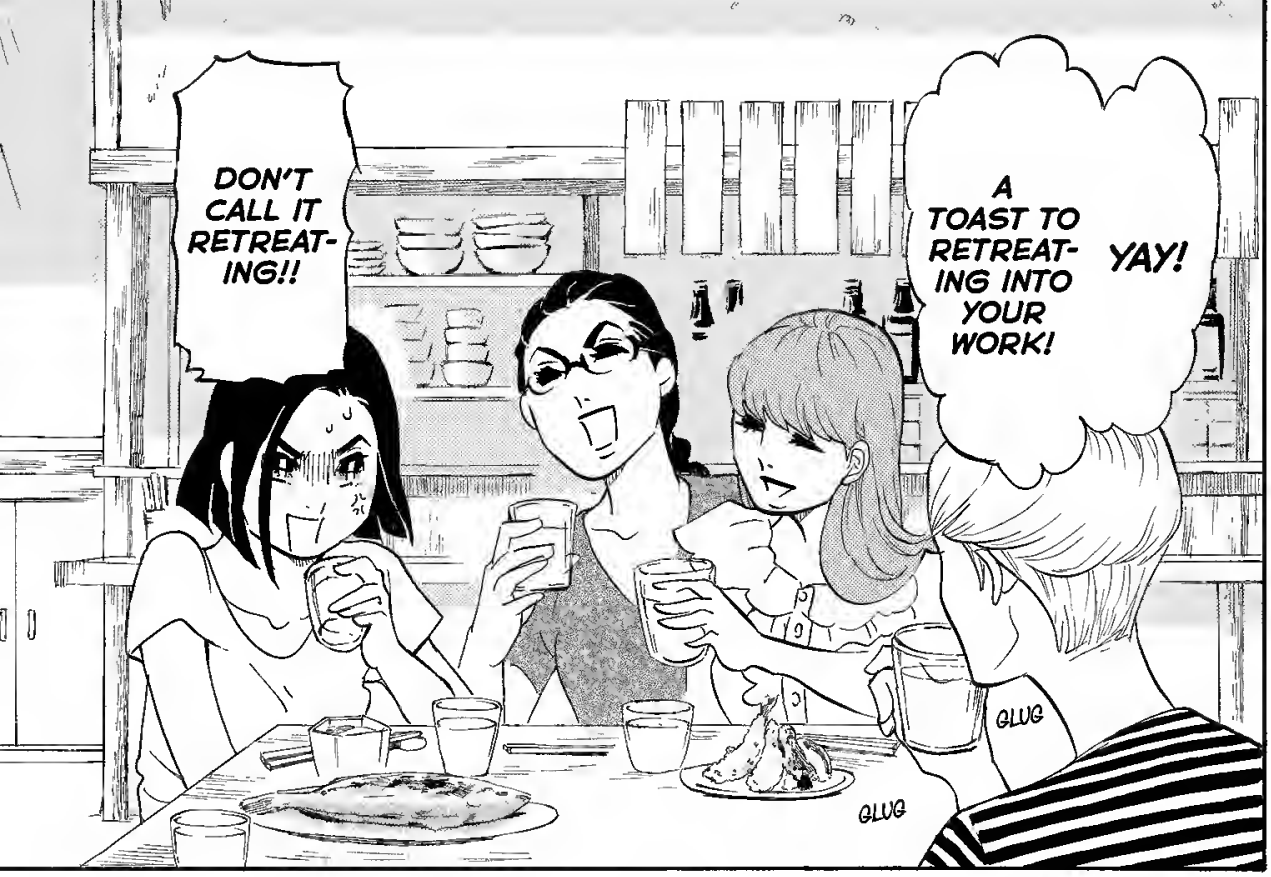
PHEW! THIS TURNED INTO A REAL NICE SCENE!
I'M GLAD WE FILMED THAT ON A DAY WITH GOOD WEATHER!
OH, WAIT A SECOND! RIGHT HERE! WHERE THE EXTRA TRIPPED!
MAYBE WE SHOULD USE THAT DURING THE END CREDITS.
AH, I GET YOU.
WHEN THE AUDIENCE GETS TO SEE BEHIND THE SCENES STUFF AND OUTTAKES DURING THE CREDITS, IT'S PRETTY FUN FOR THEM.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GONNA BE ABLE TO USE THE PART WHERE YOU TRIPPED.
Yeesh. Because you wore those high heels...
NOOO! DON'T DO IT! YOU CAN SEE MY PANTIES!
CRASH
STOP IT, RINKO! CUT THAT!!
I'LL NEVER FIND A HUS-BAND!!
DON'T WORRY. YOU WON'T ANYWAY.
RIGHT.
There, there.
WHUMP
PLEASE, DIRECTOR! PLEASE DON'T USE THAT! IT'S EMBAR-RASSING!
HUH?!
SHUT UP!

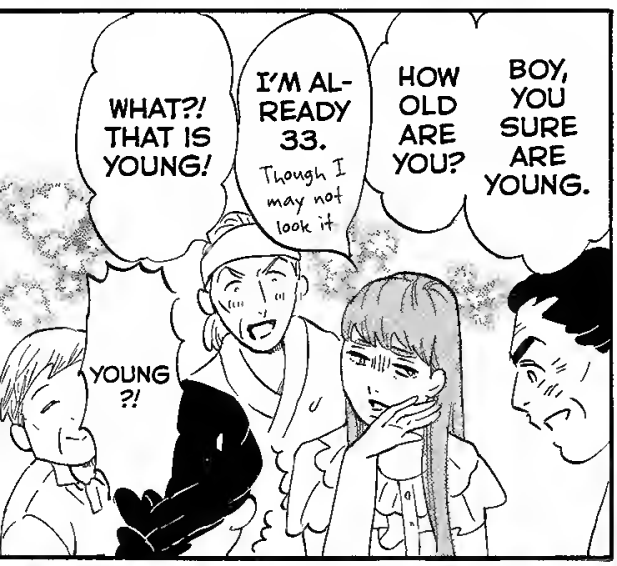

YOU MAY ONLY BE AN EXTRA, BUT THE SECOND YOU AGREED TO BE PART OF THIS PRODUCTION, YOU GAVE FINAL SAY TO THE DIRECTOR!!
SO STOP COMPLAINING AND CONSIDER YOURSELF LUCKY YOU EVEN GOT TO BE ON CAMERA!! YOU NINCOMPOOP !!
RINKO ...
IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S ALL BETTER NOW...
TMP
DO
YEAH ...
THAT'S SO... WONDER-FUL.
YEAH ...
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP
WHY DON'T YOU TWO GIVE IT A REST TOO?

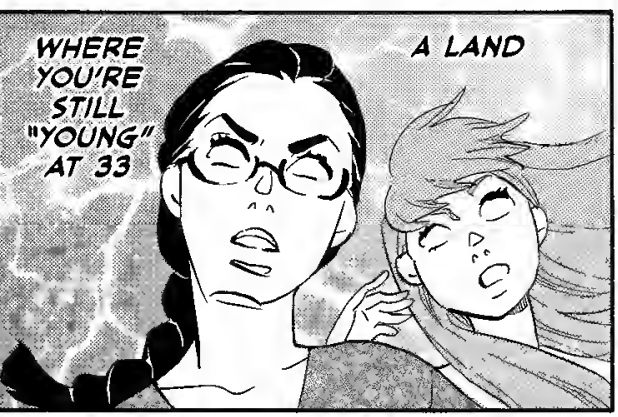
AND JUST RETREAT INTO YOUR WORK LIKE HER.
CUT OUT ALL THE CHEATING AND SECOND WOMAN STUFF...
ANYWAY ...
YOU REALLY THINK THERE ARE THAT MANY SINGLE, GOOD MEN OUT THERE?
AND EVEN IF THERE ARE, THEY WOULDN'T GO OUT WITH THE TWO OF YOU AS YOU ARE NOW.
SMILE

SMILE SMILE
HE'S SMILING WHILE HE SAYS SUCH AWFUL THINGS...
...HE'S SMILING ...
...BECAUSE ONCE THIS IS OVER HE GETS TO DRINK THE LOCAL SAKE AND EAT THE LOCAL FISH?
IN FACT, HE'S IN AN AWFULLY GOOD MOOD TODAY.




DON'T CALL IT RETREAT-ING!!
A TOAST TO RETREAT-ING INTO YOUR WORK!
YAY!
GLUG
GLUG


WHAT?! THAT IS YOUNG!
I'M AL-READY 33.
Though I may not look it
HOW OLD ARE YOU?
BOY, YOU SURE ARE YOUNG.
YOUNG ?!


WHERE YOU'RE STILL "YOUNG" AT 33
A LAND

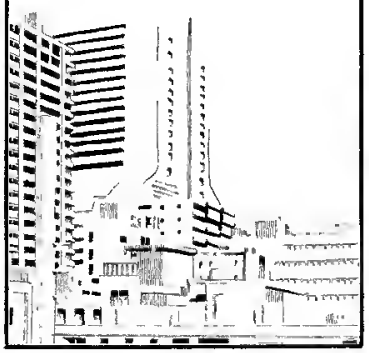
BOY!
TWO MORE YOUNG, HOT BABES CAME TO OUR TOWN AT ONCE...
ARE YOU ACTRESS-ES IN THAT SHOW THEY'RE FILMING?
YES, WE ARE.

THE SAKE'S GOOD.
GLUG
ガビ
GLUG
ガビ
THE FISH IS GOOD TOO!
YEAH, IF ALL ELSE FAILS, WE'LL ALL LIVE HERE!
I'M ABAN-DONING TOKYO.
ME TOO.
RINKO. I'M GONNA LIVE HERE.
Hey
AHHH.
THE MILT AND LIVER DIDN'T SHOW UP TONIGHT.
AND I PRAY THAT THEY NEVER...
SHOW UP AGAIN, BABY.
...AFTER-WORK SAKE IS A HUNDRED TIMES BETTER.
I'M REMINDED THAT COMPARED TO THE SAKE WE DRINK WHILE COM-PLAINING ON OUR GIRLS' NIGHTS OUT...

ACT
15
POLKA DOT WOMAN

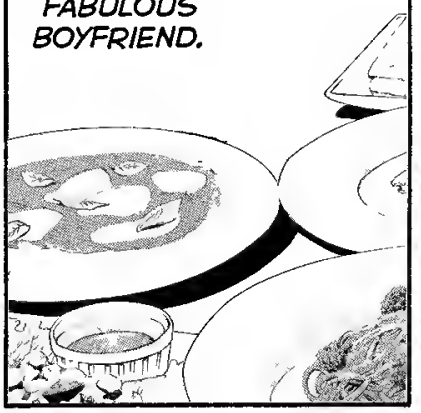
I READ IN SOME MAGAZINE THAT WHEN YOUR JOB GOES SMOOTHLY, YOUR LOVE LIFE STARTS TO GO WELL TOO.

THE COUNTRYSIDE IN IZU WAS NICE, BUT TOKYO HAS ITS OWN PLEASURES.

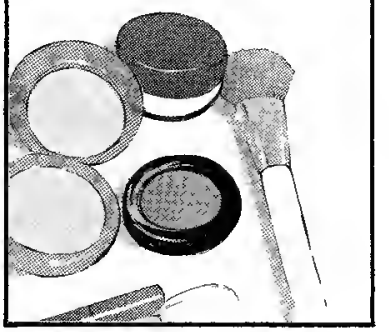


WORK HARD DURING THE DAY.

AND AT NIGHT, HAVE A LIGHT DINNER AT A TAPAS BAR WITH YOUR FABULOUS BOYFRIEND.



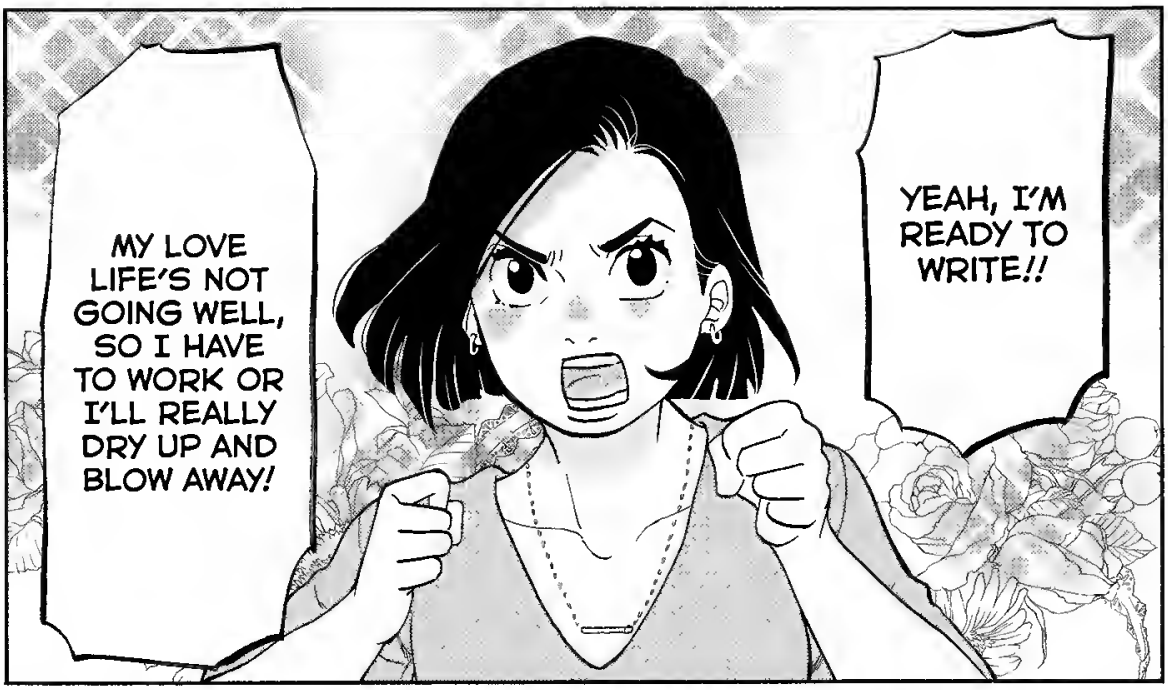
BALANCE YOUR CAREER AND YOUR LOVE LIVE.

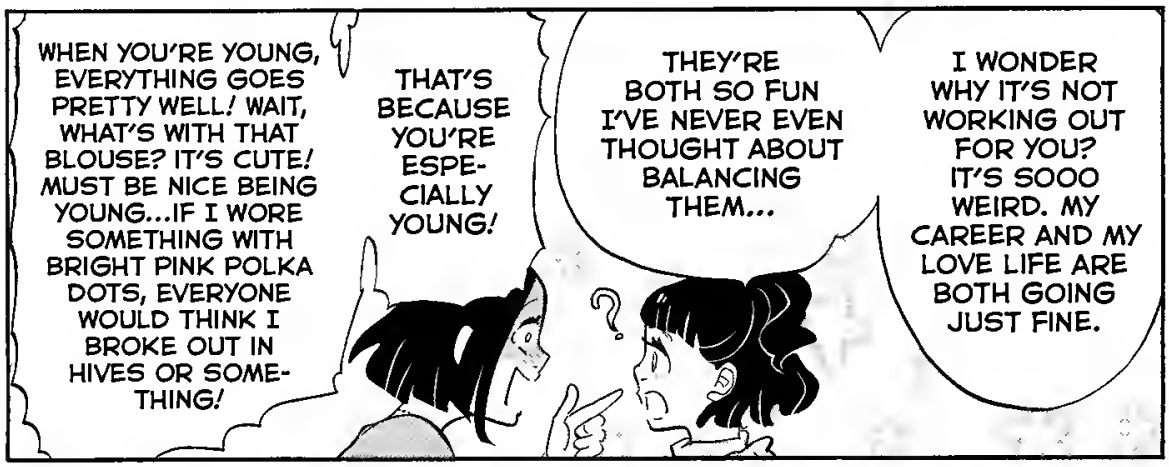


RINKO KAMATA, AGE 33.
I HAVE EMERGED FROM A LONG TUNNEL AND... FINALLY GOT BACK ON MY FEET!!
MAMI!
HOW ABOUT WE GO HALF AND HALF ON THIS OFFICE?

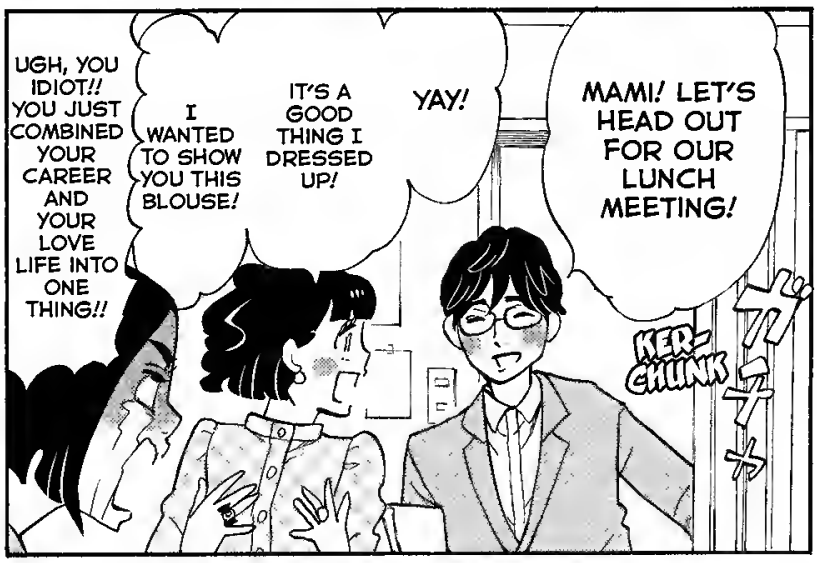
...RINKO ...
SO YOU REALLY DID GIVE UP ON MARRIAGE, HUH?
I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP!!
I HAVEN'T GIVEN UP!! BUT!! FOR NOW!!
I DECIDED TO GO TO WORK AGAIN!!
I'VE BEEN HUNG OUT TO DRY THANKS TO A CERTAIN SOMEONE AND I'M NOT GETTING ANY DECENT WORK, SO IT'D BE TOUGH TO PAY THE WHOLE RENT!!
BUT HALF !!
I THINK I CAN HANDLE HALF!!
WE'LL DRAW A LINE FROM HERE TO HERE!
THIS WILL BE MY SIDE AND THAT WILL BE YOURS!
WE'LL EACH GET HALF THE DESK, AND IF YOU WANT YOU CAN EVEN PUT UP A DIVIDER!!
IT'LL BE A JOINT OFFICE!! HOW'S THAT?!
IT'LL BE LIKE ONE OF THOSE FOREIGN SHOWS!! HOW COOL IS THAT?!

SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY ABOUT AN OLD WOMAN LIKE ME...
OH, I BET YOU'LL WANT THE SIDE FARTHEST FROM THE AIR CONDITIONER, SINCE YOU GET COLD EASILY, RIGHT?
THEN PICK THE SIDE YOU WANT, RINKO.
AND WHEN WE SPEND THE NIGHT, I'LL USE THE ROOM IN BACK TOO! THAT'S OKAY, RIGHT?
I'M IN!!
ALL RIGHT! THAT'S THE SPIRIT!
THAT WAS YOU! SORRY FOR MAKING A TALENTED GIRL LIKE YOU DO SUCH MENIAL LABOR!
AS YOUR ASSISTANT, I CLEANED UP THE EMPTY CHU-HI CANS LITTERING THE FLOOR BY YOUR BED EVERY NIGHT!
OH, I KNOW!
IN FACT, I'VE *NEVER* HAD A MAN OVER IN THIS PLACE!
SURE, IT'S OKAY! I DON'T EXACTLY HAVE PLANS TO HAVE ANY MEN OVER!
Use it how you like!!
MHAM
SEEING YOU EXCITED TO WRITE AGAIN!!
EEK!
BUT I'M SO GLAD!!


MY LOVE LIFE'S NOT GOING WELL, SO I HAVE TO WORK OR I'LL REALLY DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!
YEAH, I'M READY TO WRITE!!


WHEN YOU'RE YOUNG, EVERYTHING GOES PRETTY WELL! WAIT, WHAT'S WITH THAT BLOUSE? IT'S CUTE! MUST BE NICE BEING YOUNG...IF I WORE SOMETHING WITH BRIGHT PINK POLKA DOTS, EVERYONE WOULD THINK I BROKE OUT IN HIVES OR SOMETHING!
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE ESPECIALLY YOUNG!
THEY'RE BOTH SO FUN I'VE NEVER EVEN THOUGHT ABOUT BALANCING THEM...
I WONDER WHY IT'S NOT WORKING OUT FOR YOU? IT'S SOOO WEIRD. MY CAREER AND MY LOVE LIFE ARE BOTH GOING JUST FINE.

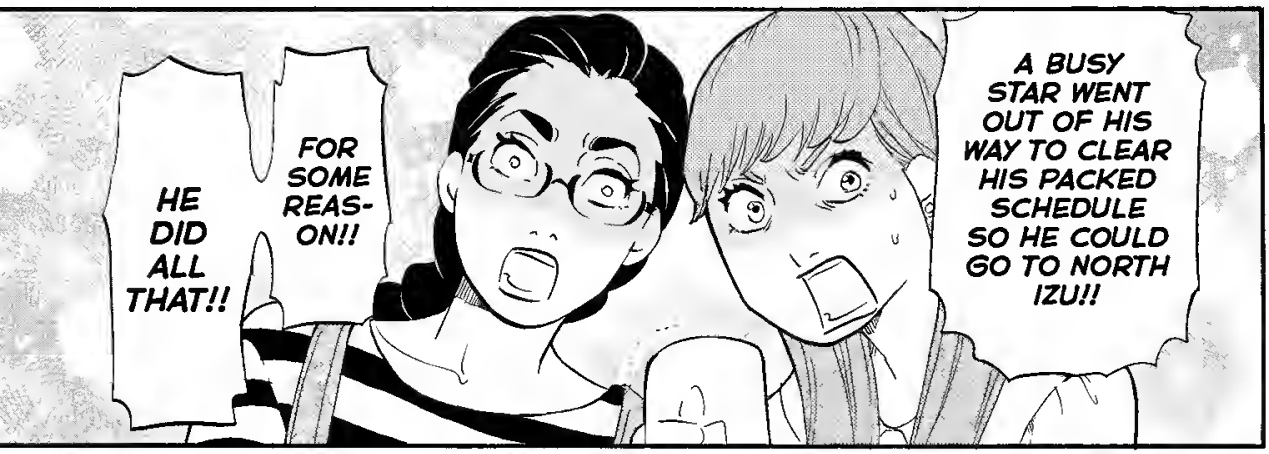
酒処 呑んべえ
NONBEE
お気軽に


UGH, YOU IDIOT!! YOU JUST COMBINED YOUR CAREER AND YOUR LOVE LIFE INTO ONE THING!!
I WANTED TO SHOW YOU THIS BLOUSE!
IT'S A GOOD THING I DRESSED UP!
YAY!
MAMI! LET'S HEAD OUT FOR OUR LUNCH MEETING!
KER-CHUNK

YEAH, IT WAS GREAT! THAT WAS BASICALLY THE FIRST TIME WE'VE EVER SEEN YOU WORK, RINKO!
FRIGGIN' GREAT!
MAN, THAT LOCATION SHOOT IN NORTH IZU WAS GREAT!!
THEN STOP DRINKING AND HELP OUT HERE!
ME TOO!
THINK
RIGHT?
I'VE AT LEAST!
IT MADE ME THINK !!
GOTTA WORK!!
YEAH, WHEN YOU GET PAST 30, YOU JUST GIVE UP ON DOING CERTAIN THINGS, RIGHT?
AND I WAS SO DILIGENT ABOUT IT WHEN I WAS YOUNGER!
WHEN YOU GET PAST 30, UPDATING A BLOG AND STUFF GETS TO BE TOO MUCH OF A PAIN!
♡ CATEGORIES
Events (8)
Recommendations (30)
Seasonal (21)
Category: Recommendations
Like! (18)
YOU HAVEN'T TOUCHED IT IN AGES, AFTER ALL.
I'M GONNA UPDATE THE SALON'S WEBSITE!!
ALL RIGHT!

THUNK
AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT ONE...TWO YEARS HAVE PASSED...
AND WHEN YOU FINALLY TRY TO LOG IN AGAIN, YOU CAN'T REMEMBER THE PASSWORD...
STOP WITH THE REAL-LIFE THIRTY-SOME-THING SCARY STO-RIES !!
HMM? IS IT SPOOKY STORY TIME?
YARGH!!
I HEAR YOU WENT TO IZU?
WHY DIDN'T YOU INVITE US?
I WOULDN'T INVITE YOU FOR THAT!! THAT WAS WORK! WORK!!
Don't sit beside me!
THE ORIGINS OF OUR THIRTY-SOME-THING SCARY STORIES ARE HERE IN THE FLESH!!
The affair and the second!!
STOP PUT-TING IT LIKE THAT !!
HMM?
WORK? YOU MEAN THAT SERIES WITH KEY?
HUH?!
NO, THIS WAS A DIFFERENT, LOCAL PROJECT ...

HUH?!
WAS KEY IN THIS TOO?
HUH?!
I MEAN, HE WENT TOO, RIGHT?
TO IZU.
YEAH, HE DID.
HE TOTALLY CAME.
GASP
手羽ギョウザ +30
ハムかつ 306
チーズアイ 450
煮豚 600

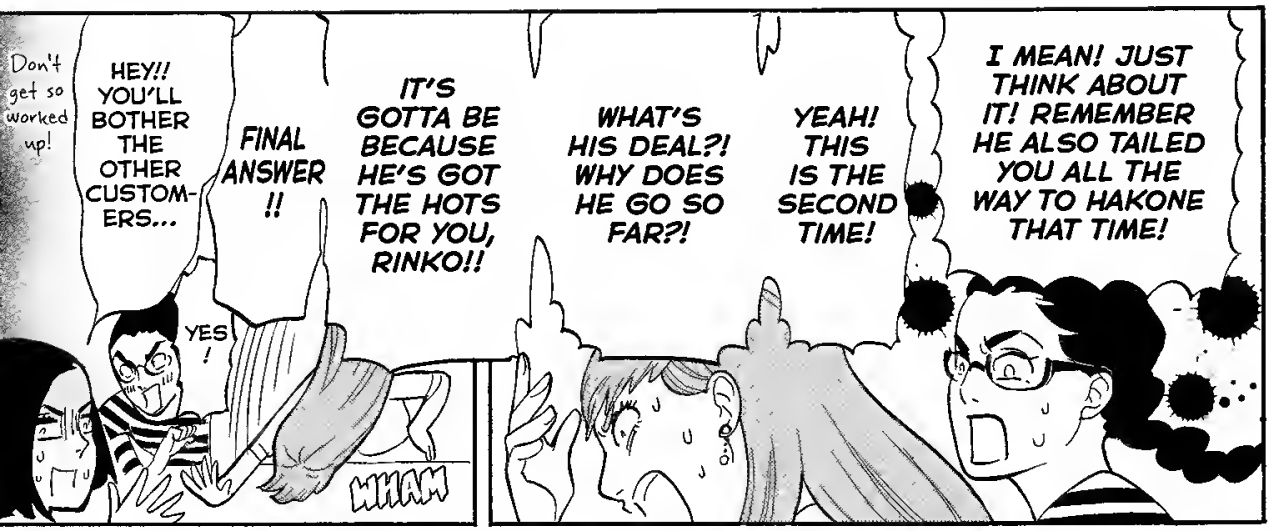

A BUSY STAR WENT OUT OF HIS WAY TO CLEAR HIS PACKED SCHEDULE SO HE COULD GO TO NORTH IZU!!
FOR SOME REASON!!
HE DID ALL THAT!!

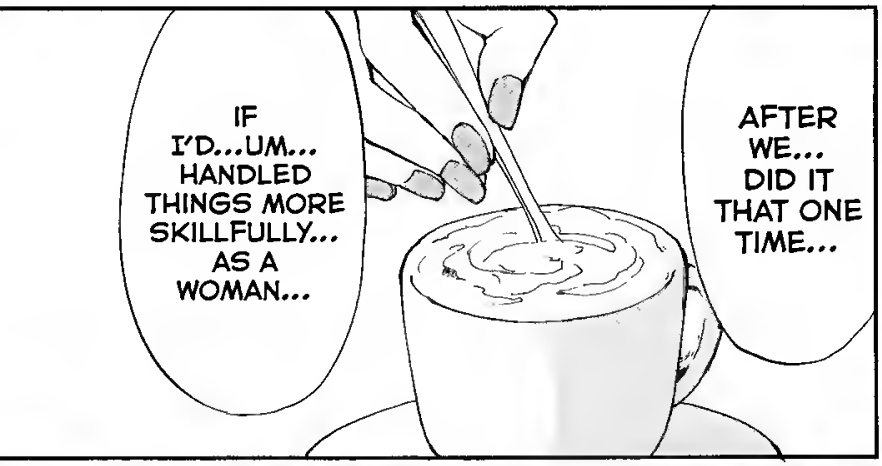
FLASH!!
WOW.
WHY?
WHY?
WHY?!
BECAUSE, WELL!!
UH?!
WHY, RINKO?!
WHY ELSE?
HE PROBABLY CAME TO RAIN ON MY PARADE, RIGHT?
NOBODY WOULD RIDE THE NON-EXPRESS TRAIN ALL THE WAY DOWN TO ATAMI JUST TO LAUGH AT SOMEONE!!

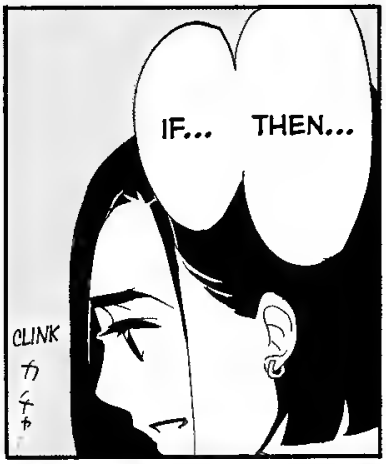
YOU'RE RIGHT. WE MUST THOROUGHLY DISCUSS THIS TOPIC IMMEDIATELY.
IT'S NO USE, KOYUKI.
LET'S CHANGE VENUES.
YES, JUST US GIRLS!
GRAB
HUH? HEY, WAIT! WHAT ARE YOU—
HUH?
AREN'T YOU TWO SEEING EACH OTHER? You and Ky
NO, NO, NO!
NOT EVEN CLOSE.
AFTER WE RE-ASSEMBLE ELSE-WHERE...
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
IT'S A FOUR-ALARMER !!!!
HUUUUH?!
BOING
Benny's
BOOM
BOOM
BA-BOOM

ARE YOU SURE HE DOESN'T LIKE YOU?
みんなのグランドMENU
EXCUSE ME. I'D LIKE TO ORDER THIS DOMESTIC FRIED CHICKEN WITH GRATED RADISH AND PONZU SAUCE MEAL WITH ALL THE FIXIN'S.
THIS IS NO TIME FOR ALL THE FIXIN'S!
HE'S GOT THE HOTS FOR YOU!! HE'S GOT TO!!
THERE'S NO OTHER REASON FOR HIM TO FOLLOW YOU ALL THE WAY OUT THERE!!
THAT'S RIGHT! HE WOULDN'T USE UP HIS PRECIOUS OFF TIME TO GO SO FAR, SO FAR, SO FAR OUT OF HIS WAY!!
NO, IT'S NOT LONG BY SHIN-KANSEN.
WHAP WHAP WHAP
WELL, HE DID FORCE ME TO TAKE THAT JOB, SO HE WAS PROBABLY JUST URIOUS OW IT WAS NING UT.
IN FACT !!
WHAM

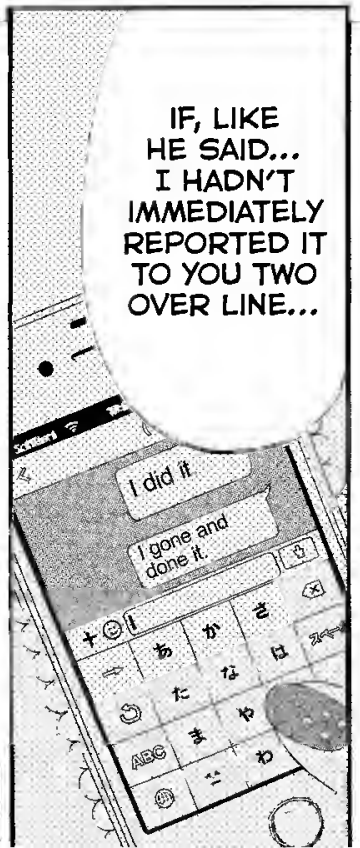
HE WOULDN'T HAVE SEX WITH SOME WOMAN HE DOESN'T LIKE *AT ALL*, RIGHT?
MAYBE JUST FOR FUN?
ACTU-ALLY, HE WAS PRETTY DRUNK AT THE TIME, SO...
YOU'RE TELLING ME YOU'D BANG ONE OF OUR CUS-TOMERS IF YOU WERE DRUNK ?!
Hic!
NO, I WOULDN'T DO THAT...
SEE!! SEE!! SEE!!
EX-ACTLY!! YOU WON'T SLEEP WITH JUST ANYONE!! BECAUSE YOU'RE HUMAN!!
EVEN IF I GOT FALLING-DOWN DRUNK, I'D NEVER DREAM OF SLEEPING WITH SOMEONE WHO WASN'T MY TYPE!!
ME EITH-ER!!


Don't get so worked up!
HEY!! YOU'LL BOTHER THE OTHER CUSTOM-ERS...
YES!
FINAL ANSWER !!
IT'S GOTTA BE BECAUSE HE'S GOT THE HOTS FOR YOU, RINKO!!
WHAM
WHAT'S HIS DEAL?! WHY DOES HE GO SO FAR?!
YEAH! THIS IS THE SECOND TIME!
I MEAN! JUST THINK ABOUT IT! REMEMBER HE ALSO TAILED YOU ALL THE WAY TO HAKONE THAT TIME!


IF I'D...UM... HANDLED THINGS MORE SKILLFULLY... AS A WOMAN...
AFTER WE... DID IT THAT ONE TIME...

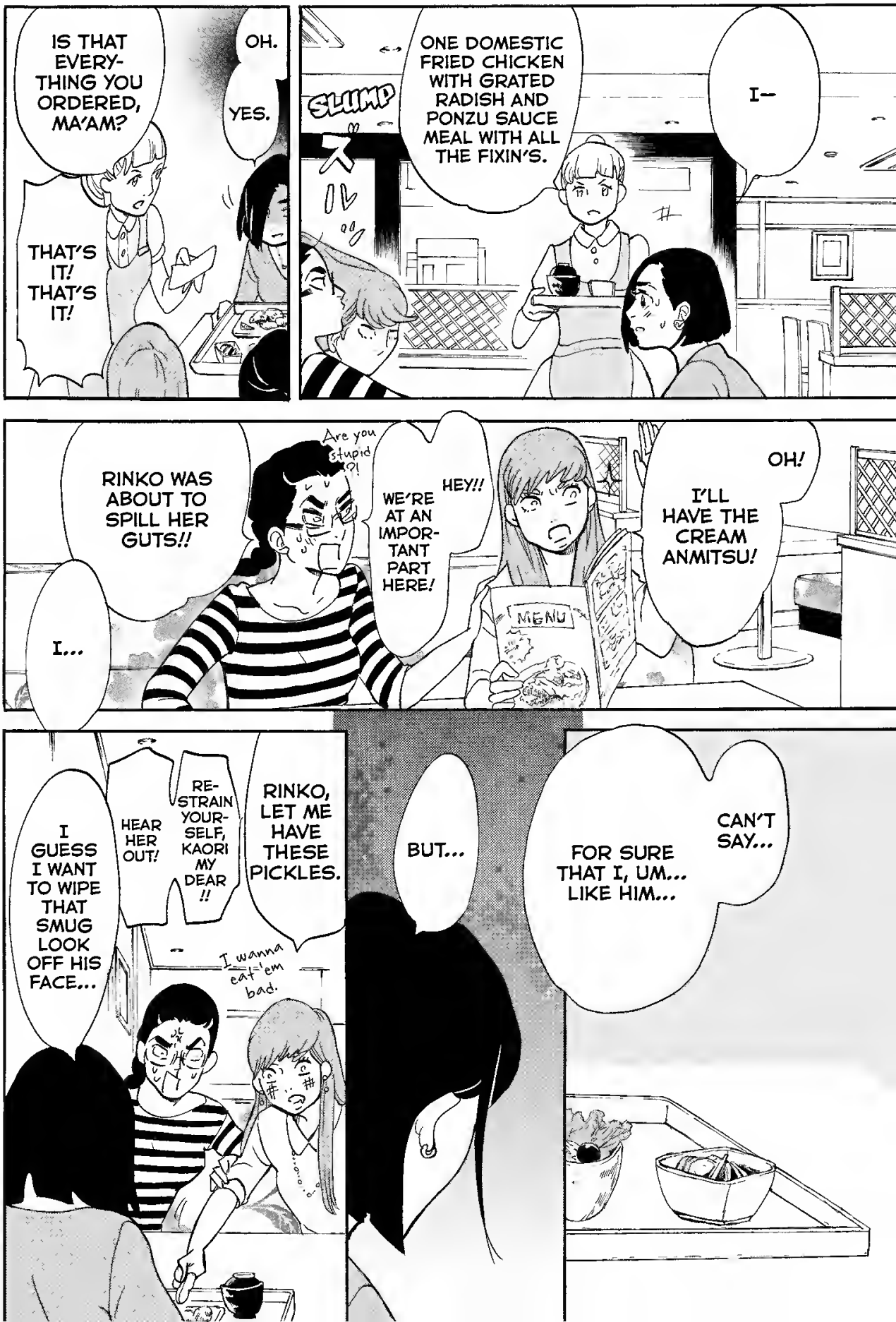

IF... THEN...
CLINK カチャ

...NO, I STILL DON'T REALLY THINK SO...
BUT ...
Sorry that's kind of an old refer-ence!
THE IT HAPPENS EXPEDI-TION PARTY!
NO! IT HAPPENS! IT HAPPENS! IT HAPPENS!
THEN MAYBE ...
NO, IT'D NEVER HAPPEN.


IF, LIKE HE SAID... I HADN'T IMMEDIATELY REPORTED IT TO YOU TWO OVER LINE...
I did it
I gone and done it.

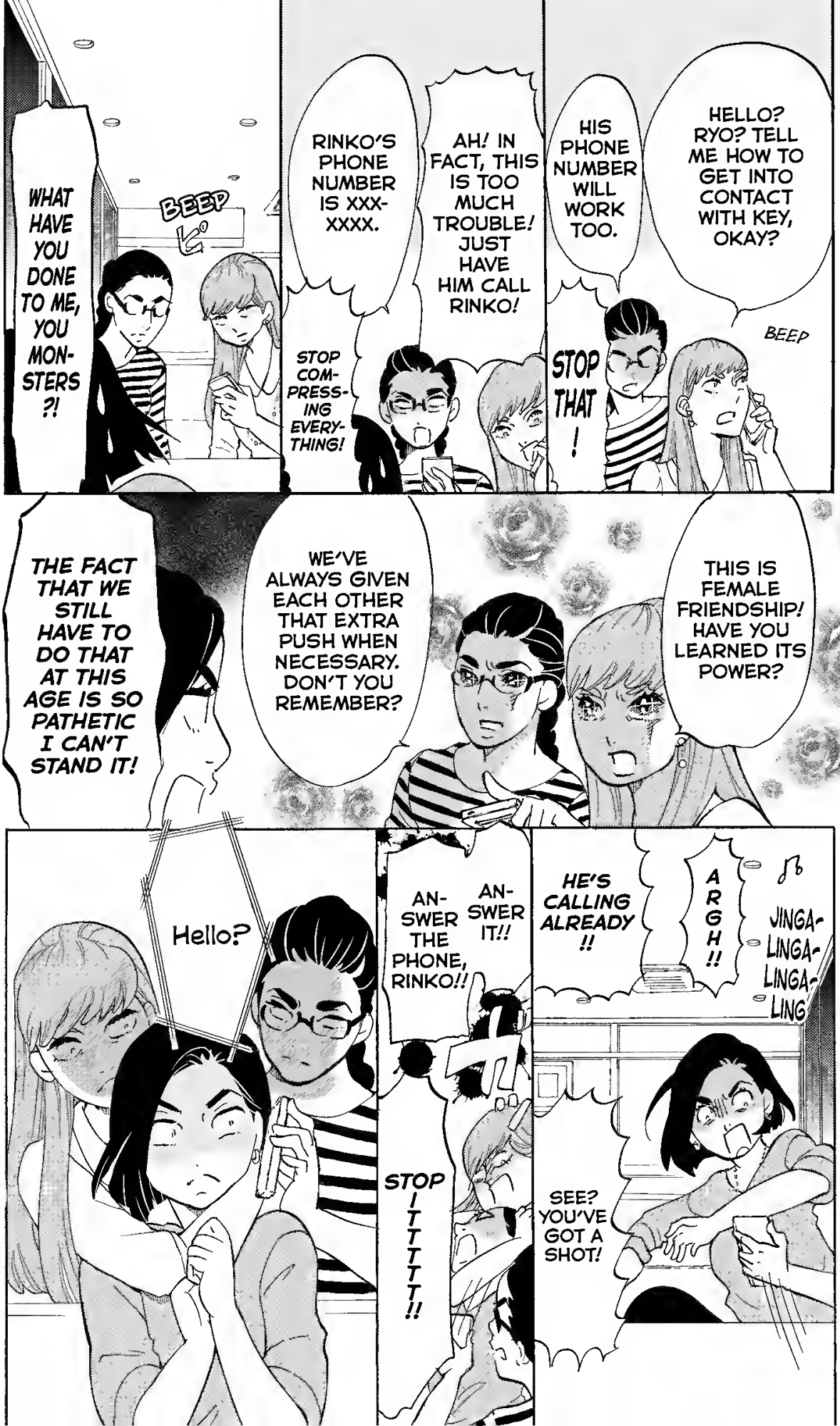
...
THEN...
CLINK
THEY'RE IN A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT !!
OUTSIDE THE 23RD WARDS !!
WE'RE NOT TALKING NAKANO HERE!!
I KNOW, RIGHT?! HAKONE AND IZU!!
SURPRISE ME TWICE BY FOLLOWING ME TO FAR OFF PLACES, SO...
YEAH, HE DID KIND OF... WELL...
WH-
WH-WH-
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT KAORI SAYS IS CORRECT.
YES. THAT'S RIGHT.
...IS YOUR FEELINGS!!
WHAT'S MOST IMPORTANT...
HUH?! MY FEELINGS?
WHAM
WAIT!!
FLINCH

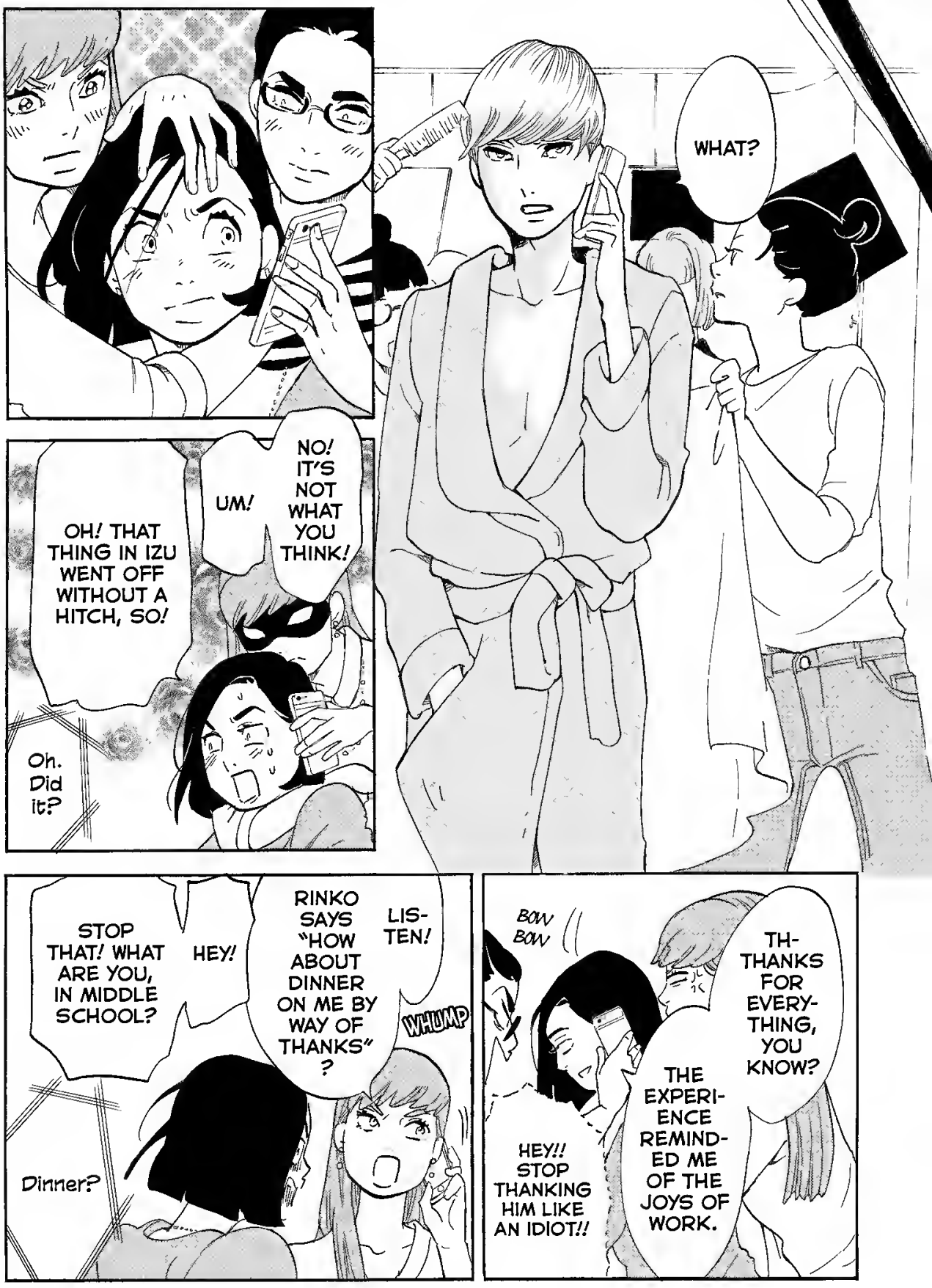
RINKO.
NO, I...
DO YOU LIKE HIM?
WE KNOW ALL ABOUT EACH OTHER'S FAILED RELATIONSHIPS.
WE'VE REVEALED ALL SORTS OF EMBARRASSING THINGS ABOUT OURSELVES TO EACH OTHER OVER THE YEARS.
THAT'S RIGHT.
WITH EACH OTHER SINCE HIGH SCHOOL.
WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT OUR LOVE LIVES...
...!
DO YOU HATE HIM?
DO YOU LIKE HIM?
WE AREN'T GOING TO LAUGH AT YOU.
SO BE HONEST WITH US.

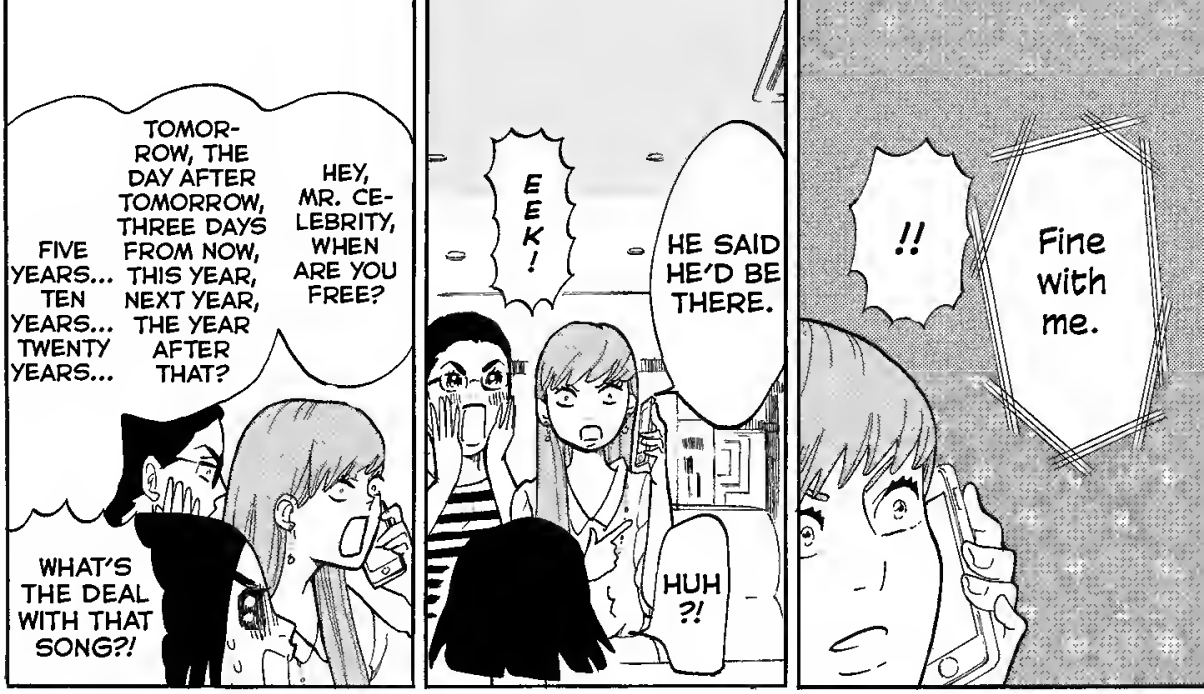

IS THAT EVERY-THING YOU ORDERED, MA'AM?
OH.
YES.
THAT'S IT! THAT'S IT!
SLUMP
ONE DOMESTIC FRIED CHICKEN WITH GRATED RADISH AND PONZU SAUCE MEAL WITH ALL THE FIXIN'S.
I—
RINKO WAS ABOUT TO SPILL HER GUTS!!
I...
Are you stupid?!
HEY!!
WE'RE AT AN IMPOR-TANT PART HERE!
MENU
OH!
I'LL HAVE THE CREAM ANMITSU!
I GUESS I WANT TO WIPE THAT SMUG LOOK OFF HIS FACE...
HEAR HER OUT!
RE-STRAIN YOUR-SELF, KAORI MY DEAR !!
RINKO, LET ME HAVE THESE PICKLES.
I wanna eat 'em bad.
BUT...
FOR SURE THAT I, UM... LIKE HIM...
CAN'T SAY...

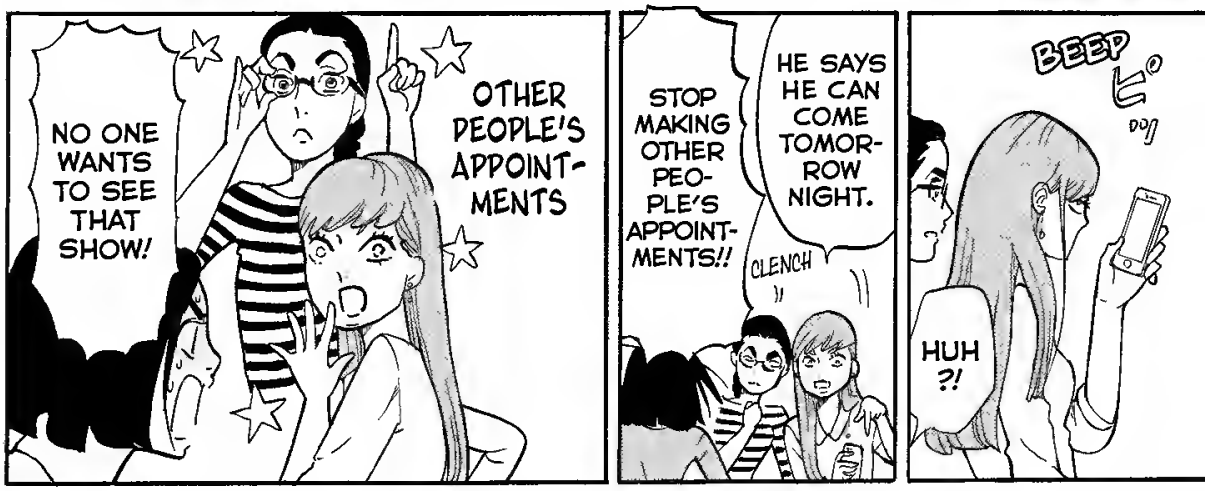
NO MATTER HOW I LOOK AT IT, I CAN'T THINK OF MYSELF AS LUCKY FOR HAVING DONE IT ONCE WITH A YOUNGER GUY...
I GUESS WHAT HAPPENED DID HURT ME...
I MEAN ...
EVEN AT THIS AGE...
SO I WANT TO SHOW HIM UP AT WORK.
HEY, WAIT A MINUTE. THAT'S NOT WHAT WE'RE TALKING ABOUT.
WE'RE NOT TALK-ING ABOUT WORK RIGHT NOW.
HUH ?!
YAAARGH!!
WE'RE NOT TALK-ING ABOUT WORK, WE'RE TALK-ING ABOUT FEEL-INGS, YA MORON !!
I SAID WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT WORK RIGHT NOW!!

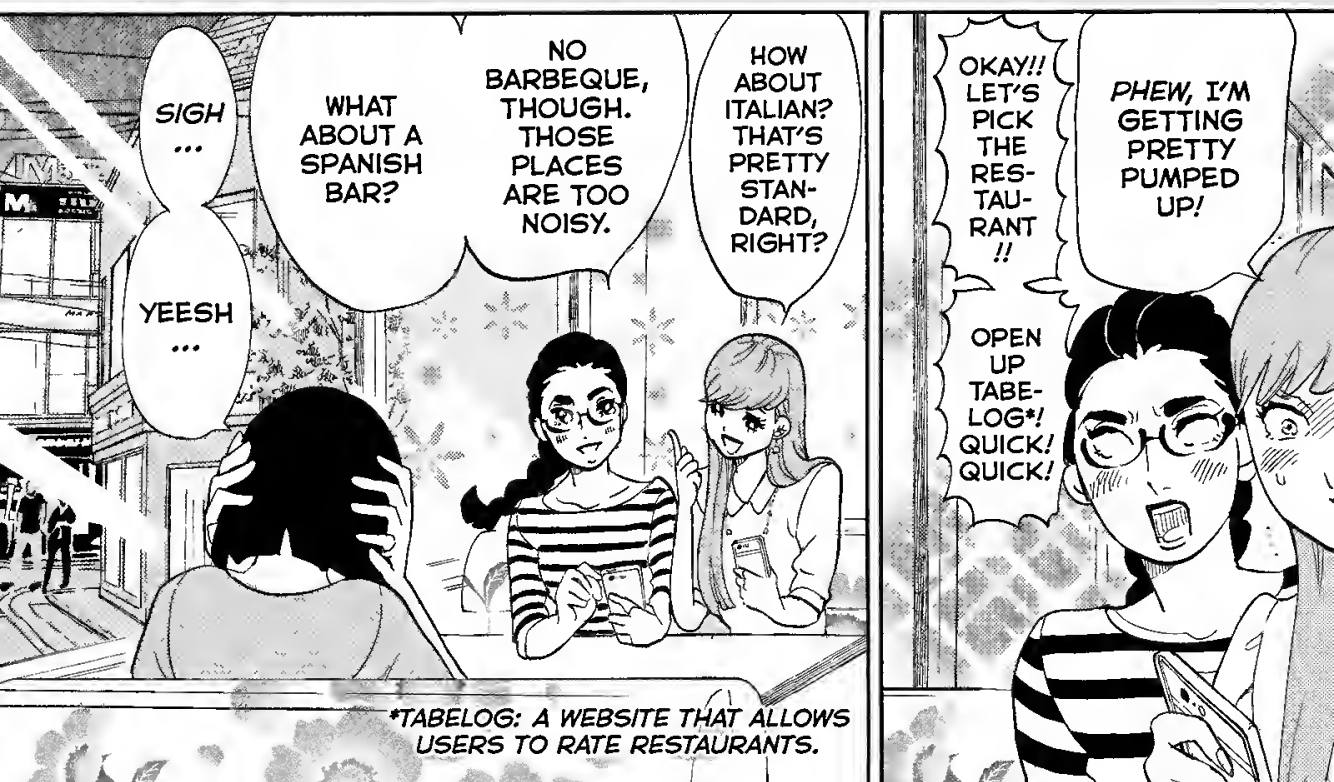
OUIJA BOARD, O OUIJA BOARD, DOES RINKO LOVE KEY?
OH! IT MOVED!
STOP IT!!
Don't regress to child-hood on me!!
ONE CREAM ANMITSU.
OUIJA BOARD, THANK YOU. PLEASE ACCEPT THIS ANMITSU AS AN OFFERING.
NO! NO! NO! DON'T THANK THAT !!
HUFF HUFF
ALL RIGHT!
INVITE HIM TO DINNER!
SINCE THE IZU JOB HE SENT YOU WENT WELL, THANK HIM...
BY INVIT-ING HIM...
...TO DINNER!!
NO WAY!!
ALL RIGHT, INVITE HIM RIGHT NOW.
GIVE US YOUR PHONE.
I-I CAN'T! I DON'T EVEN KNOW HIS LINE AD-DRESS!!
Hand it over!


HELLO? RYO? TELL ME HOW TO GET INTO CONTACT WITH KEY, OKAY?
BEEP
HIS PHONE NUMBER WILL WORK TOO.
STOP THAT!
AH! IN FACT, THIS IS TOO MUCH TROUBLE! JUST HAVE HIM CALL RINKO!
RINKO'S PHONE NUMBER IS XXX-XXXX.
STOP COMPRESSING EVERYTHING!
BEEP
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO ME, YOU MONSTERS?!
THIS IS FEMALE FRIENDSHIP! HAVE YOU LEARNED ITS POWER?
WE'VE ALWAYS GIVEN EACH OTHER THAT EXTRA PUSH WHEN NECESSARY. DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
THE FACT THAT WE STILL HAVE TO DO THAT AT THIS AGE IS SO PATHETIC I CAN'T STAND IT!
♪ JINGA-LINGA-LINGA-LING
ARGH!!
HE'S CALLING ALREADY!!
SEE? YOU'VE GOT A SHOT!
ANSWER IT!!
ANSWER THE PHONE, RINKO!!
STOP-TTTTT!!
Hello?

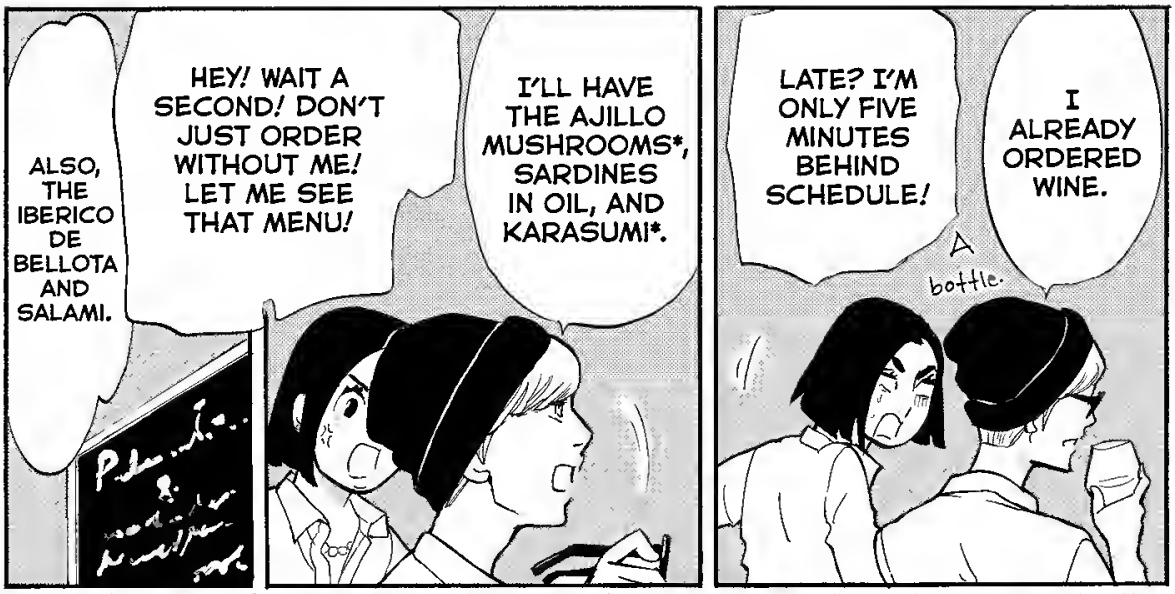

WHAT?
TH-THANKS FOR EVERY-THING, YOU KNOW?
THE EXPERI-ENCE REMIND-ED ME OF THE JOYS OF WORK.
BOW BOW
HEY!! STOP THANKING HIM LIKE AN IDIOT!!
LIS-TEN!
RINKO SAYS "HOW ABOUT DINNER ON ME BY WAY OF THANKS"?
WHUMP
HEY!
STOP THAT! WHAT ARE YOU, IN MIDDLE SCHOOL?
Dinner?
NO! IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
UM!
OH! THAT THING IN IZU WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH, SO!
Oh. Did it?


Fine with me.
!!
HE SAID HE'D BE THERE.
EEK!
HUH?!
HEY, MR. CELEBRITY, WHEN ARE YOU FREE?
TOMORROW, THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, THREE DAYS FROM NOW, THIS YEAR, NEXT YEAR, THE YEAR AFTER THAT?
FIVE YEARS... TEN YEARS... TWENTY YEARS...
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THAT SONG?!

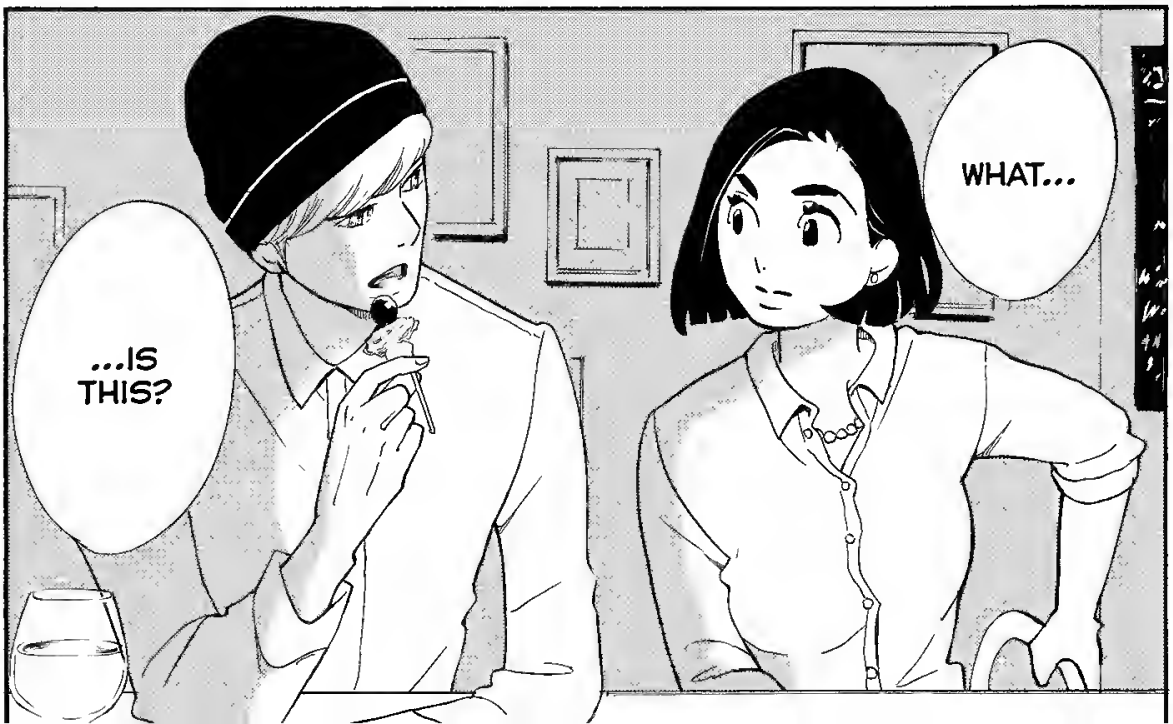

BEEP ピ
HUH?!
HE SAYS HE CAN COME TOMORROW NIGHT.
CLENCH
STOP MAKING OTHER PEOPLE'S APPOINTMENTS!!
OTHER PEOPLE'S APPOINTMENTS
NO ONE WANTS TO SEE THAT SHOW!


PHEW, I'M GETTING PRETTY PUMPED UP!
OKAY!! LET'S PICK THE RESTAURANT!!
OPEN UP TABELOG*! QUICK! QUICK!
HOW ABOUT ITALIAN? THAT'S PRETTY STANDARD, RIGHT?
NO BARBEQUE, THOUGH. THOSE PLACES ARE TOO NOISY.
WHAT ABOUT A SPANISH BAR?
SIGH...
YEESH...
*TABELOG: A WEBSITE THAT ALLOWS USERS TO RATE RESTAURANTS.

WELL, YOU DO HAVE A POINT THERE ...
YOU ALREADY SLEPT WITH HIM ONCE. WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL ABOUT HAVING DINNER WITH HIM?
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
SOMETIMES THESE GIRLFRIEND RAMPAGES ARE NECESSARY.
DON'T BE SILLY.
No matter how old they get...
WHY ARE GIRLFRIENDS ALWAYS LIKE THIS?
AFTER ALL THIS TIME FOR DINNER...
AFTER ALL THIS TIME...
BUT FOR SOME REASON... SEEING HIM NOW...
HNGH!
YOU'RE LATE!


ALSO, THE IBERICO DE BELLOTA AND SALAMI.
HEY! WAIT A SECOND! DON'T JUST ORDER WITHOUT ME! LET ME SEE THAT MENU!
I'LL HAVE THE AJILLO MUSHROOMS*, SARDINES IN OIL, AND KARASUMI*.
LATE? I'M ONLY FIVE MINUTES BEHIND SCHEDULE!
I ALREADY ORDERED WINE.
A bottle.

*AJILLO MUSHROOMS: A DISH OF COOKED MUSHROOMS WITH A GARLIC SAUCE/*KARASUMI: A DELICACY MADE BY DRYING SALTED MULLET ROE IN THE SUN.

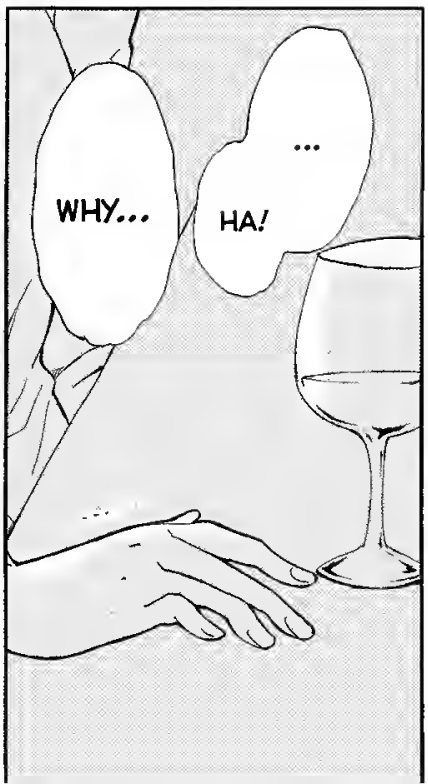


...SO WHAT IN THE WORLD DO YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?
YOU ASKED ME TO TAKE TIME OUT OF MY RIDICULOUSLY BUSY SCHEDULE TO COME HERE...
THAT'S WHAT I'M ASKING.
THIS LITTLE MEETING.
WHAT'S IT FOR?
NOT THAT!
... WAS IT?
P-PINCHOS?
SORRY. THAT'S JUST MY PERSONALITY.
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS TALK LIKE THAT?
HEY...
...!
UGH!
AS LONG AS I GET TO THE POINT, I'M GOOD.
I'M NOT GOOD AT THAT.
...ENJOY AN ADULT CONVERSATION?
LIKE... WHEN YOU KIND OF RESPECT EACH OTHER'S FEELINGS AND...
YOU KNOW ...
CAN'T WE JUST...

I DON'T WANT ANY PART IN ONE OF THOSE WINDING, PROBING CONVERSATIONS WHERE YOU NEVER GET ANYWHERE.
SO JUST GET STRAIGHT TO THE POINT.
YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH ALREADY.
WHY DID YOU INVITE ME TO DINNER?
IS IT ABOUT WORK?
OR IS IT...

...BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT THE MAN WHO SLEPT WITH YOU ONCE WOULD THROW YOU ANOTHER BONE?

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS PUT IT LIKE THAT?


WHY...
...
HA!

YOU'RE NOT A NORMAL YOUNG MAN...
THIS ISN'T NORMAL.
THERE'S SOME-THING WRONG WITH YOU...
I ONLY WANTED...
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS TRY TO HURT ME?
WE HAVEN'T EVEN MADE A TOAST YET.

...TO SIT DOWN AND TALK WITH YOU.
WHY DID YOU LEAVE THE NEXT MORNING WITHOUT SAYING A WORD?
...THAT NIGHT IN HAKONE?
WHY DID YOU DO THAT WITH ME...
...
...WHY DID YOU SUDDENLY DECIDE TO SUPPORT MY WORK?
AND THEN...
WHY DID YOU DESTROY MY JOB?
I JUST WANTED TO KNOW.

I'M LEAV-ING.
WHAT IS WITH YOU? JEEZ...
ガタ THUNK
GRAB
ガ
!!

THEN CALL ME YOURSELF.
YOU WOMEN ARE ALWAYS LIKE THIS.
EVEN AT YOUR AGE, YOU'RE STILL GETTING TOGETHER JUST GIRLS ...
MAKING A BUNCH OF NOISE ...
DAYDREAMING ABOUT THINGS THAT DID OR DIDN'T HAPPEN...
GETTING WORKED UP...
AND ACTING WITHOUT MUCH THOUGHT ON NOTHING MORE THAN THOSE DAYDREAMS.
SO I'M ON ALERT TOO.
HEY.

WHAT ARE YOU GETTING OLDER FOR?
I COULD NEVER LOVE A WOMAN LIKE THAT.
WATCHING YOU THREE TICKS ME OFF.

I COULD NEVER LOVE YOU.

KA-CLUNK
ガコン
のど
カ
清酒
One Cup
GLUG GLUG
ゴクゴク
PSHH
プシッ
SIGH.

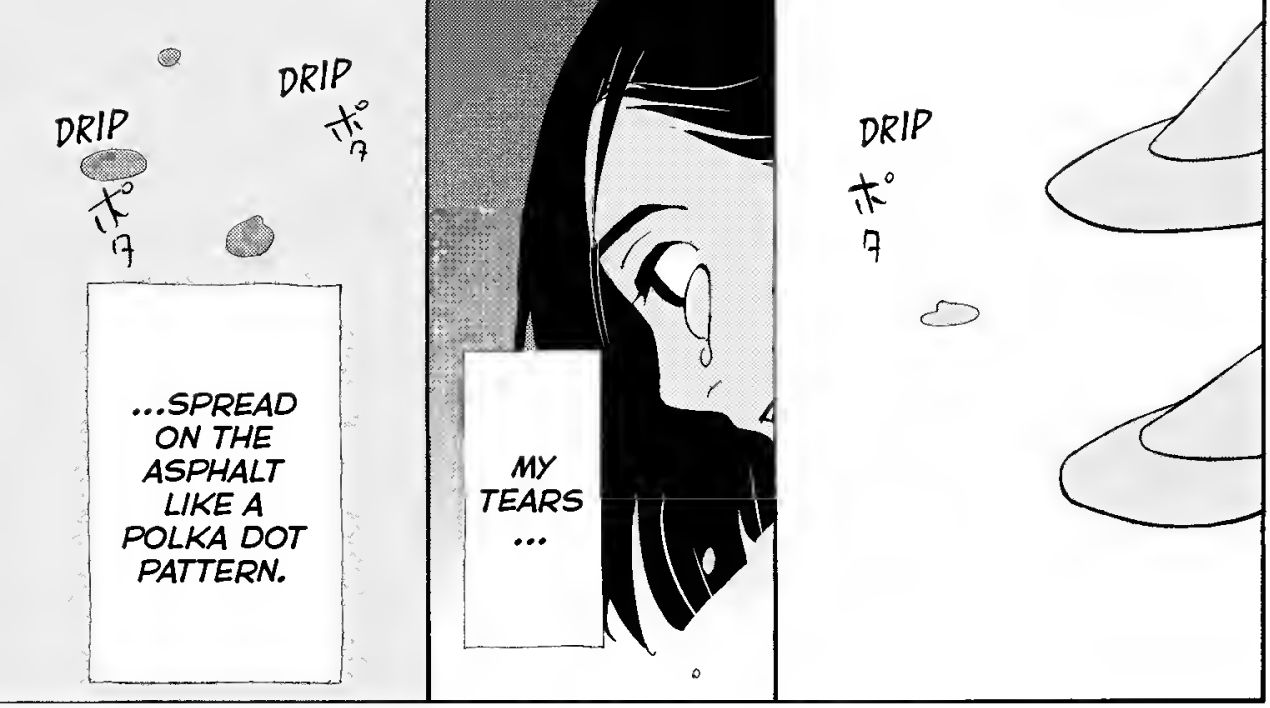
YOU CAN'T STILL BE A GIRL?
YOU CAN'T STAY THE SAME PERSON?
WHEN YOU GROW UP...
THAT WAS HARSH.
One Cup OZEKI
ABOUT HOW WOMEN SHOULD NEVER FORGET HOW THEY FELT WHEN THEY WERE YOUNG!
BUT MAGAZINES AND TV ARE ALWAYS TALKING ABOUT "GROWN-UP GIRLS"!
DON'T BE STUPID! THAT'S FUN!
IS HE SAYING GROWN WOMEN CAN'T TALK ABOUT LOVE AT FAMILY RESTAURANTS?

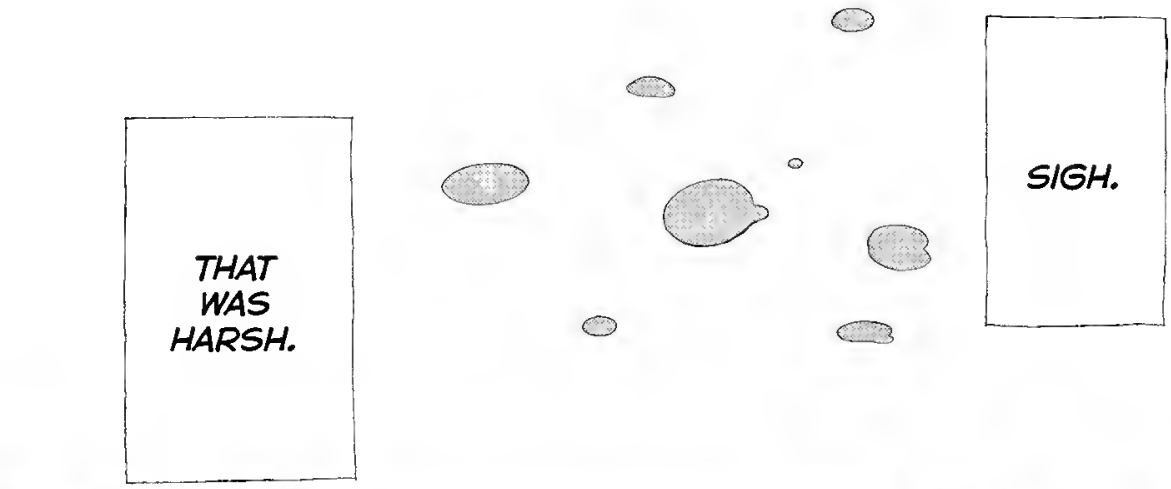
FWISH
スゥー
WHEN IT COMES TO WOMEN, THREE HEADS ARE NOT NECESSARILY BETTER THAN ONE. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
YOU GOT ALL WORKED UP LIKE YOU WERE BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL AND ENDED UP HURT BECAUSE OF IT, HUH?
I DIDN'T CALL YOU.
SINCE YOU CALLED, WE MADE OUR AP-PEAR-ANCE! TA-DA-DAH!
HEY THERE.
SPROING
HA!
"GOOD WOMAN" ...
YEAH, TO PUT IT SIMPLY. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF HE MEANT YOU'RE NOT A "GOOD WOMAN"?
...ME?
HE COULD NEVER LOVE...
WHAT DID HE MEAN BY...
WHO DOESN'T CARE WHETHER I'M A "GOOD WOMAN."
THEN I'LL JUST...
LOOK FOR SOME-ONE...
WHAT IF, WHAT IF THAT'S RIGHT, AT LEAST ACCORDING TO HIM?
SO IF YOU GO OUT WITH YOUR GIRLFRIENDS AND GET A LITTLE LOUD AT AGE 33, YOU'RE NOT A "GOOD WOMAN"?
OH, REALLY?

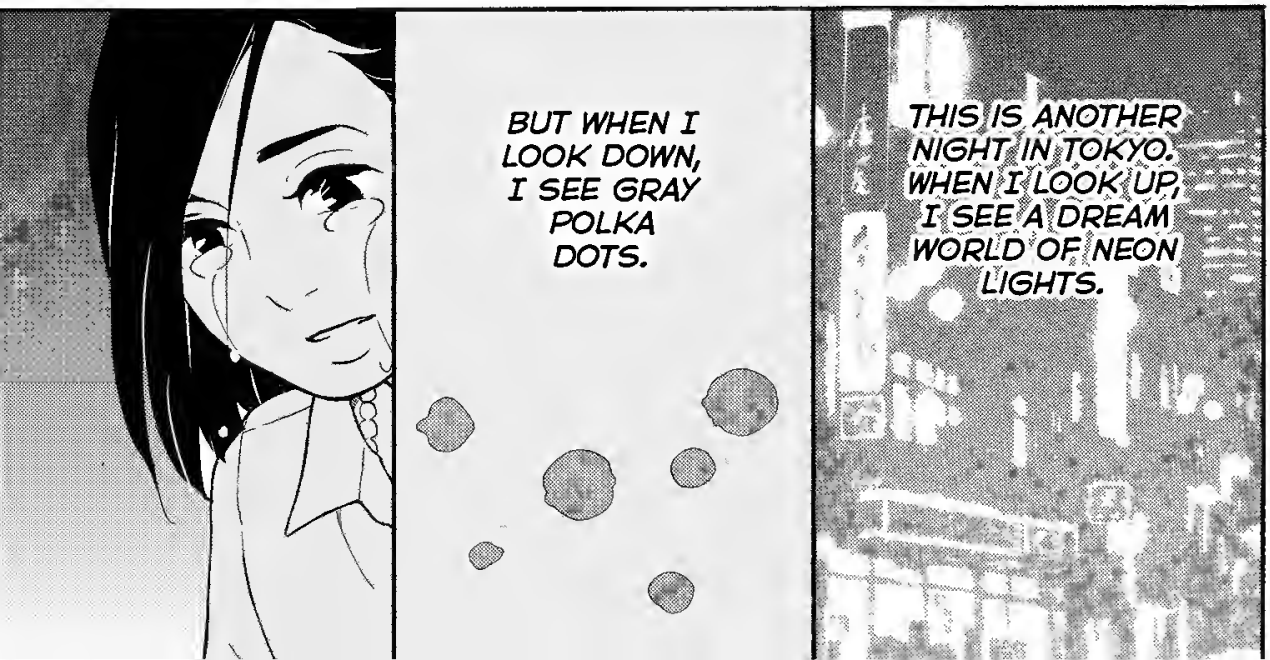
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
NOTHING, THAT'S WHAT!
I'LL FIND A MAN THAT THINKS IT'S CUTE HOW I SPEND ALL MY TIME HAVING FUN GIRLS' NIGHTS OUT WITH MY GIRLFRIENDS.
246
I'D NEVER EVEN THINK OF CHANGING MYSELF SO I COULD BE LOVED...
...BY A COLD MAN LIKE HIM.
プカ PUFF
PUFF プカ
NEVER.

RINKO.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF... ARE YOU OKAY?
CHEER UP.
WHAT?
ARE *YOU* REALLY ASKING ME THAT?
AFTER ALL THE ABUSE YOU'VE HURLED MY WAY...
...YOU JUST DECIDED TO BE NICE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
WELL ...
I MEAN ...

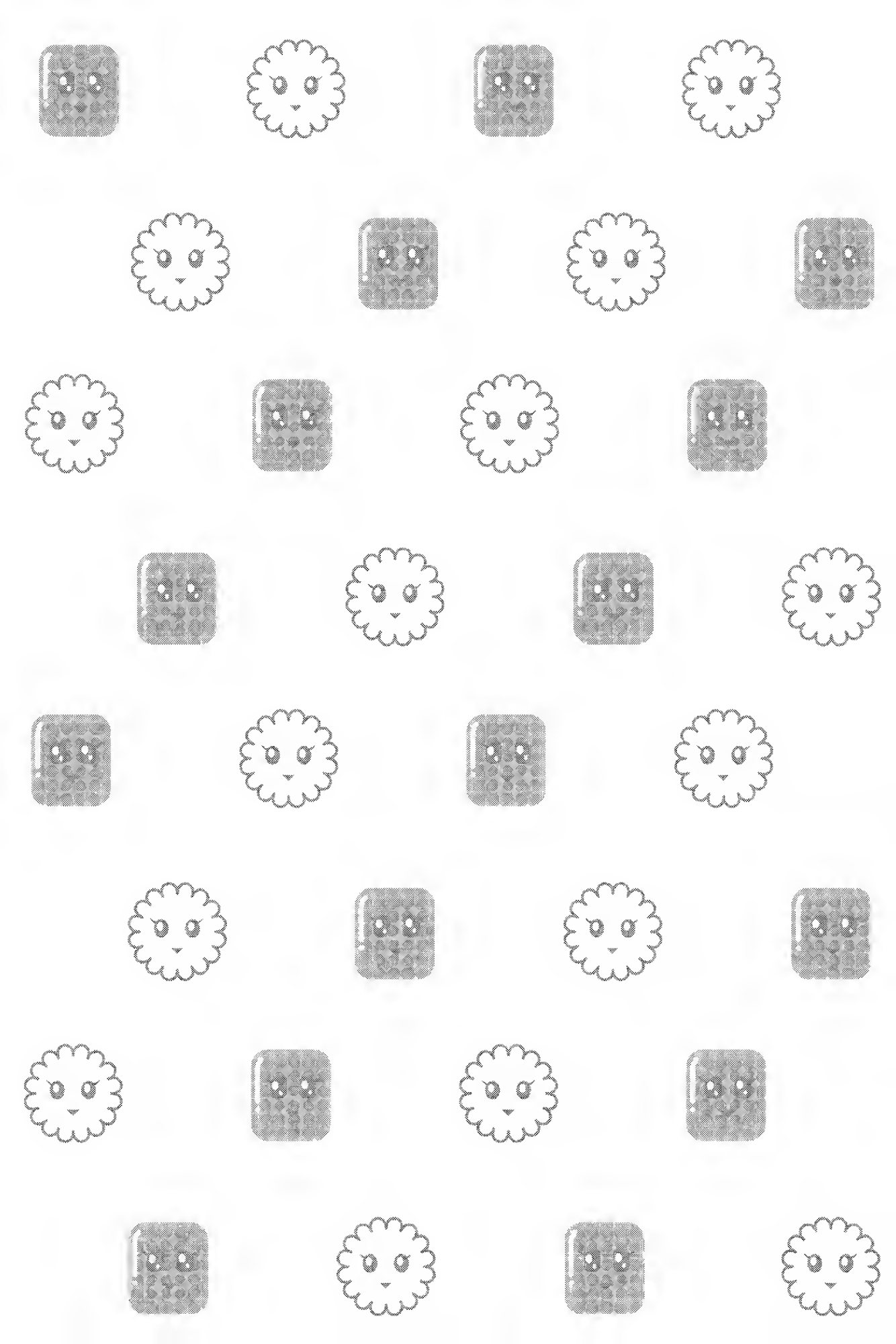
YOU'RE CRYING.


DRIP
ポタ
DRIP
ポタ
...SPREAD ON THE ASPHALT LIKE A POLKA DOT PATTERN.
MY TEARS ...
DRIP
ポタ


THAT WAS HARSH.
SIGH.

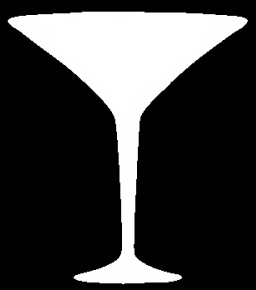

BUT WHEN I LOOK DOWN, I SEE GRAY POLKA DOTS.
THIS IS ANOTHER NIGHT IN TOKYO. WHEN I LOOK UP, I SEE A DREAM WORLD OF NEON LIGHTS.

POLKA DOTS ARE THE PERFECT LOOK FOR THOSE OF US WHO NEVER GREW UP.

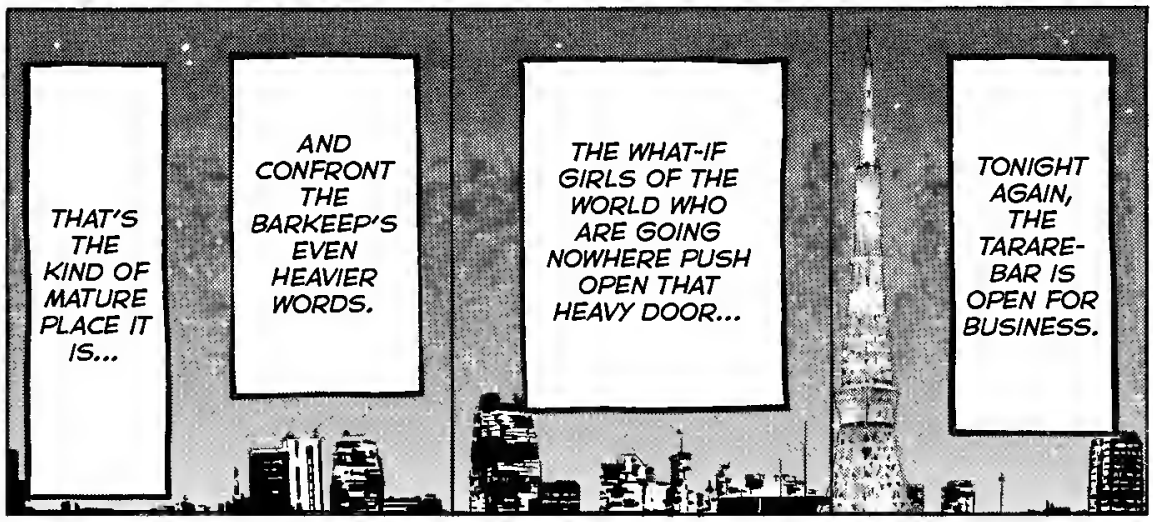


TOKYO TARAREBA GIRLS
(SIDE STORY)

Tarare-Bar



IN THE FOLLOWING SIDE STORY, "TARARE-BAR," WE PUBLISH PROBLEMS SUBMITTED BY READERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY.


THAT'S THE KIND OF MATURE PLACE IT IS...
AND CONFRONT THE BARKEEP'S EVEN HEAVIER WORDS.
THE WHAT-IF GIRLS OF THE WORLD WHO ARE GOING NOWHERE PUSH OPEN THAT HEAVY DOOR...
TONIGHT AGAIN, THE TARARE-BAR IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS.

I TURNED 30 THIS YEAR.

MY FRIENDS TELL ME I CAN'T FIND A BOYFRIEND BECAUSE THERE ARE "NO CRACKS IN MY ARMOR."

THE DAY AFTER I ATTENDED ONE OF THOSE MUNICIPAL MIXERS, I GOT A LINE MESSAGE FROM A 25-YEAR-OLD MAN I'D ONLY TALKED TO FOR 10 MINUTES. IT SAID: "I THINK IF YOU SWALLOWED YOUR PRIDE A LITTLE MORE AND WERE A LITTLE NICER, YOU'D BE MUCH, MUCH MORE POPULAR WITH THE GUYS, KAREN!"

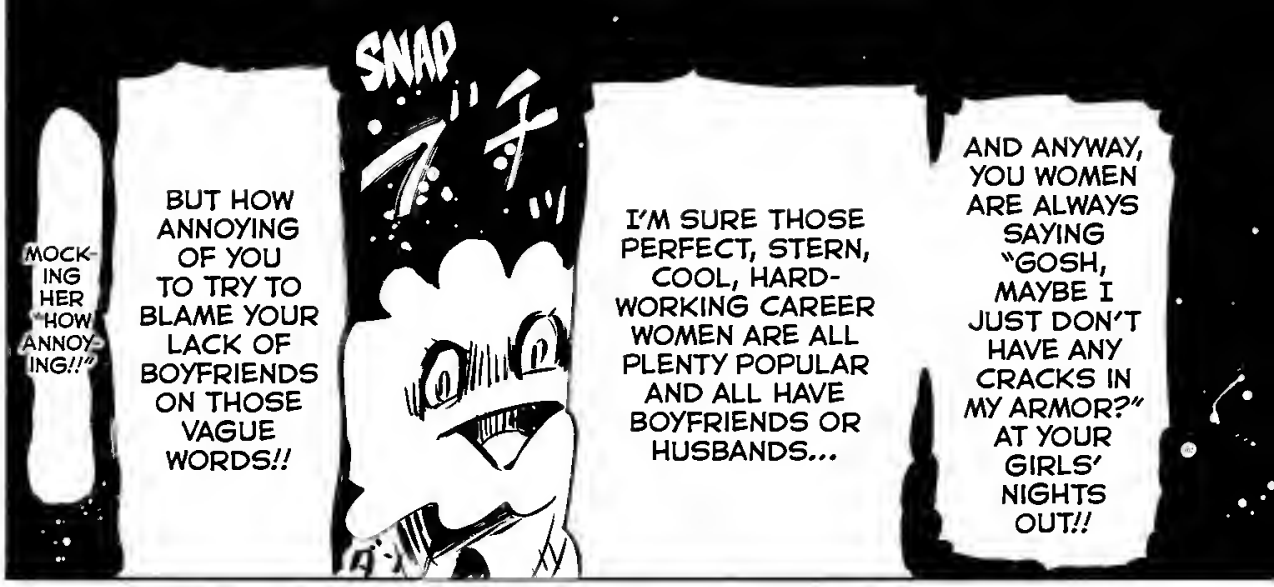
(AND THIS WAS AT 3PM ON A WEEKDAY. I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "HOW ANNOYING!!", BUT I COULDN'T DENY IT.)

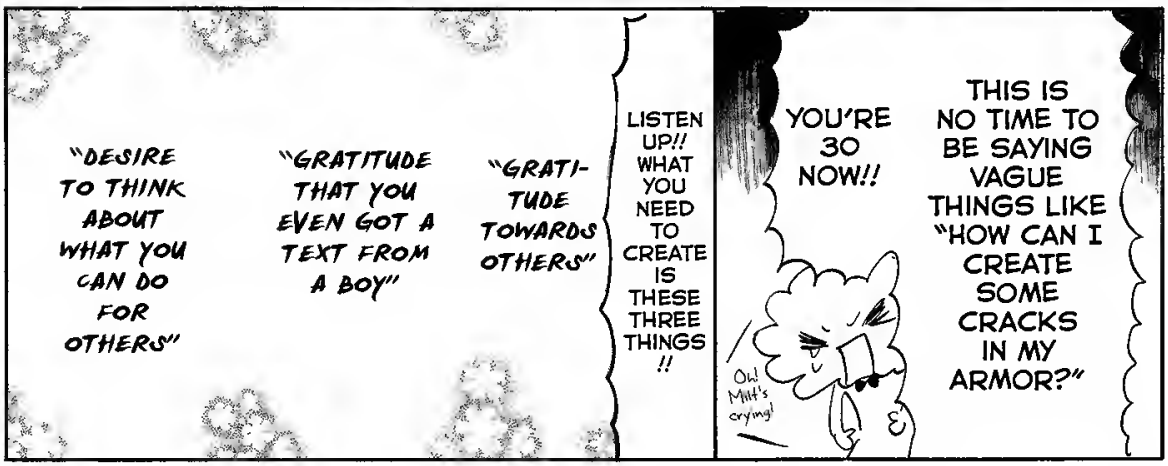
HOW DO I CREATE SOME "CRACKS" IN MY ARMOR? I CAN'T HELP THINKING I WAS JUST BORN LIKE THIS. IN FACT, DO I EVEN NEED THESE "CRACKS" IN THE FIRST PLACE?

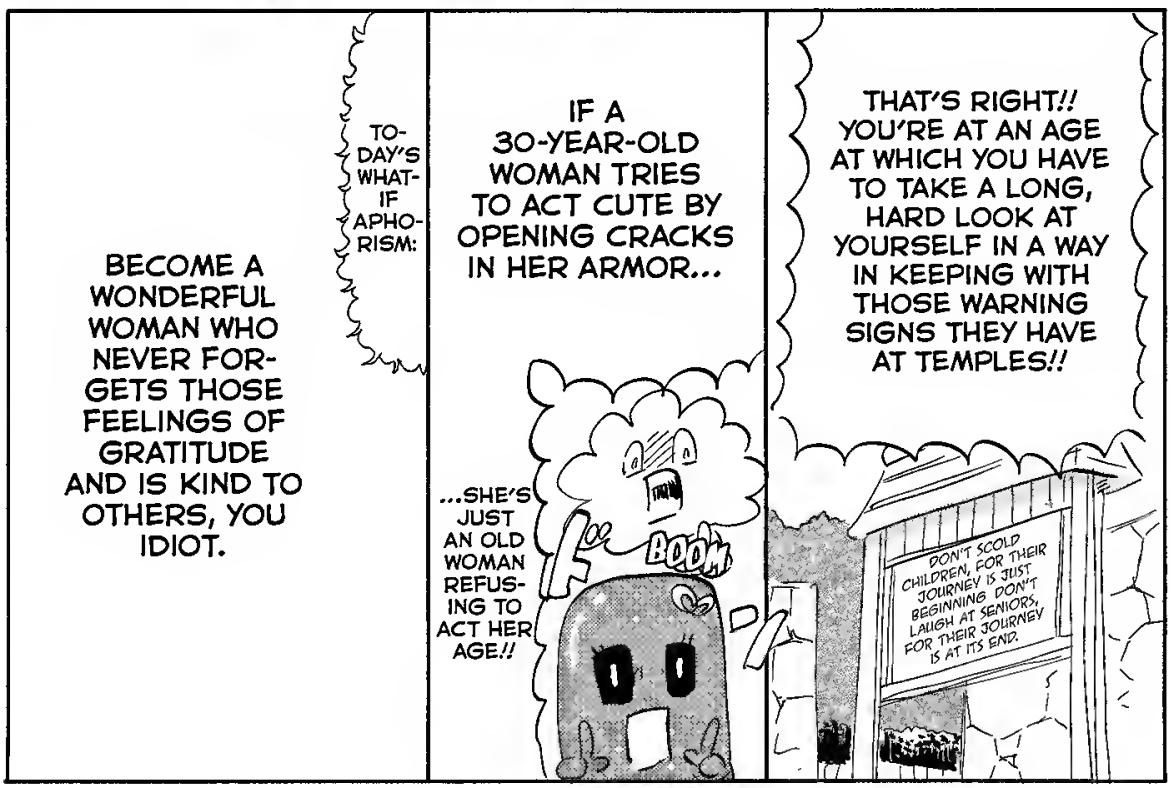
<PN: KAREN>

THERE SURE ARE. THERE ARE MORE AROUND MS. HIGASHIMURA THAN YOU CAN SHAKE A STICK AT! WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
SHAKA SHAKA
THERE ARE WOMEN LIKE THAT?
OH, LIVER-TENDER.
THEY'RE OUT THERE, ALL RIGHT.
YEAH, THEY'RE OUT THERE.
"CRACKS," EH?
A WOMAN WITH NO "CRACKS IN HER ARMOR" ...
SIGH
SKREEK
BUT IN MY MIND, THERE'S ANOTHER NAME FOR THESE "CRACKS": "CHARM." WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
JAPANESE IS A COMPLICATED LANGUAGE. WHAT IF! WHAT IF! BECAUSE OF HOW THE SAYING GOES, SOMETIMES WOMEN COME IN AND SAY, "EVERYONE SAYS THERE'S NO CRACKS IN MY ARMOR!" AND ACT LIKE IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN EXACTLY, TO HAVE NO "CRACKS" IN YOUR ARMOR?
WHOA ...
THUMP THUMP
THAT CUTS DEEP.
WHAT IT REALLY BOILS DOWN TO IS THAT SHE'S JUST "NOT CUTE." WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
AND THAT STILL MAKES IT COMPLICATED. SAYING "CHARM" SOFTENS THE BLOW A BIT.
"YOU'VE GOT NO CHARM!" WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
SO EVERY DAY, THIS KAREN'S FRIENDS ARE TELLING HER...
HA!
YIKES.
What's gotten into you tonight?

DON'T BE FOOLED BY THE MAGIC OF WORDS!!
"YOU CAN'T GET A BOYFRIEND BECAUSE THERE ARE NO CRACKS IN YOUR ARMOR."
PUT DIFFERENTLY MEANS...
"YOU CAN'T GET A BOYFRIEND BECAUSE YOUR PERSONALITY ISN'T CUTE."
LET US REVIEW AGAIN.
SKREEK
SKREEK
THERE'S PLENTY OF FAT OR UGLY GIRLS WHO ALWAYS HAVE A BOYFRIEND AND PLENTY MORE IN HAPPY MARRIAGES.
PLEASE DON'T MISUNDER-STAND. LIVARTENDER HERE ISN'T SAYING THAT YOU DON'T LOOK CUTE.
T.D.I SOB
AND YET YOU CALLED HIM ANNOYING! WHAT A BAD ATTITUDE...
SHE SENT A REAL LINE SCREENSHOT!
I THINK IF YOU SWALLOWED YOUR PRIDE A LITTLE MORE AND WERE A LITTLE NICER...
YOU'D BE MUCH, MUCH MORE POPULAR WITH THE GUYS, KAREN!
BY THE WAY, THAT FELLOW YOU TALKED TO FOR ONLY 10 MINUTES GAVE YOU THAT "I THINK IF YOU SWALLOWED YOUR PRIDE A LITTLE MORE AND WERE A LITTLE NICER, YOU'D BE MUCH, MUCH MORE POPULAR WITH THE GUYS, KAREN!" ADVICE OUT OF THE KINDNESS OF HIS HEART...
SIGH...
STUPID!! STUPID!!
I had a bad feeling when I saw this "how an-noying" in the first place.
HOW ANNOY-ING!!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, AKIKO WADA IN ONE OF THOSE ON-THE-SPOT INTER-VIEWS?!
I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THIS FROM A 25-YEAR-OLD BRAT!!
BUT YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND...
THANK YOU. WE ONLY MET ONCE, YET YOU SENT ME SUCH PRECISE (LOL) ADVICE...
YOU'RE SO NICE, XXXX...
I'LL DO MY BEST TO IMPROVE MY ATTITUDE FROM NOW ON!!
HERE, A POPULAR GIRL WOULD SURELY SAY...
EVEN WITH THE SAME LOOKS


MOCKING HER "HOW ANNOYING!!"
BUT HOW ANNOYING OF YOU TO TRY TO BLAME YOUR LACK OF BOYFRIENDS ON THOSE VAGUE WORDS!!
SNAP
I'M SURE THOSE PERFECT, STERN, COOL, HARD-WORKING CAREER WOMEN ARE ALL PLENTY POPULAR AND ALL HAVE BOYFRIENDS OR HUSBANDS...
AND ANYWAY, YOU WOMEN ARE ALWAYS SAYING "GOSH, MAYBE I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY CRACKS IN MY ARMOR?" AT YOUR GIRLS' NIGHTS OUT!!

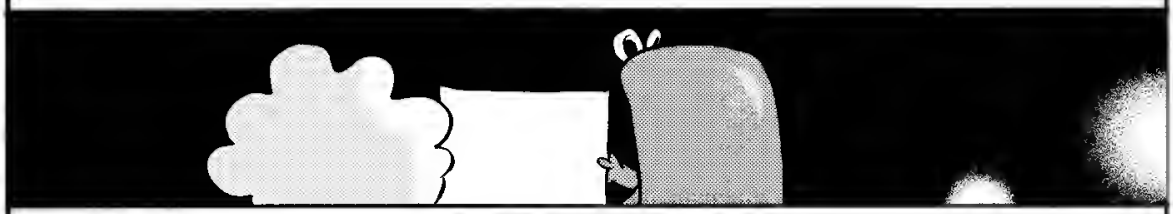

"DESIRE TO THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO FOR OTHERS"
"GRATITUDE THAT YOU EVEN GOT A TEXT FROM A BOY"
"GRATITUDE TOWARDS OTHERS"
LISTEN UP!! WHAT YOU NEED TO CREATE IS THESE THREE THINGS!!
YOU'RE 30 NOW!!
THIS IS NO TIME TO BE SAYING VAGUE THINGS LIKE "HOW CAN I CREATE SOME CRACKS IN MY ARMOR?"
Oh! Miii's crying!


BECOME A WONDERFUL WOMAN WHO NEVER FORGETS THOSE FEELINGS OF GRATITUDE AND IS KIND TO OTHERS, YOU IDIOT.
TODAY'S WHAT-IF APHORISM:
IF A 30-YEAR-OLD WOMAN TRIES TO ACT CUTE BY OPENING CRACKS IN HER ARMOR...
...SHE'S JUST AN OLD WOMAN REFUSING TO ACT HER AGE!!
BOOM
THAT'S RIGHT!! YOU'RE AT AN AGE AT WHICH YOU HAVE TO TAKE A LONG, HARD LOOK AT YOURSELF IN A WAY IN KEEPING WITH THOSE WARNING SIGNS THEY HAVE AT TEMPLES!!
DON'T SCOLD CHILDREN, FOR THEIR JOURNEY IS JUST BEGINNING. DON'T LAUGH AT SENIORS, FOR THEIR JOURNEY IS AT ITS END.

★ NIGHT 5 ★
ARE OPENING THE HEAVY DOOR OF THIS BAR...
CLANG-A-CLANG
TONIGHT AGAIN, LONELY WHAT-IF GIRLS WHO CAN'T STAND BEING ALONE...
JUST LOOK OUT THERE.
THE SLEEP-LESS CITY TOKYO ...
HELLO MS. HIGASHIMURA, MY PSEUDONYM IS "I WANT TO SEND MY HEARTS."
NOW THAT'S A WILD PSEUDONYM ...
TONIGHT, WE GOT A QUESTION FROM A MAIDEN THAT'S A LITTLE DIFFER-ENT THAN WHAT WE'VE GOTTEN BEFORE. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
RUSTLE
SINCE WE KNOW YOU'VE BEEN HIT PRETTY HARD BY IT, LET'S GET RIGHT TO TONIGHT'S QUESTION!
WOW, CAN YOU BELIEVE THE RECENT CELEBRITY MARRIAGE RUSH?

I TURNED 28 THIS YEAR, BUT FOR ABOUT TWO YEARS, I'VE BEEN FOLLOWING VISUAL-KEI BANDS, BECOMING ONE OF THOSE "BAND GALS."

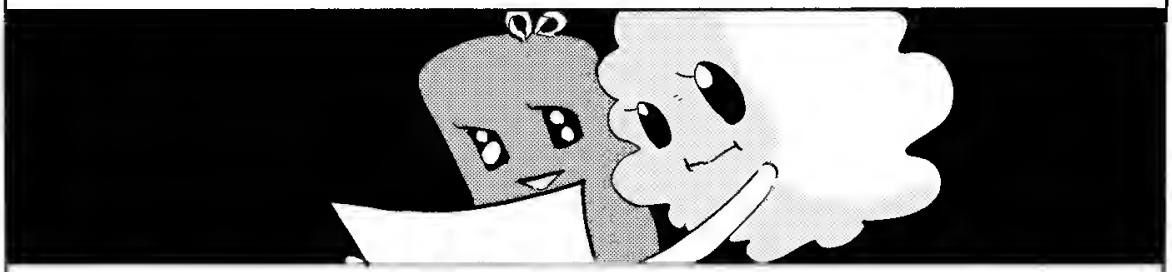
I DON'T HAVE MUCH MONEY OR STAMINA, SO I CAN ONLY GO TO CONCERTS ABOUT TWICE A MONTH, BUT WHEN I DO MAKE IT TO THE SHOWS, I WATCH MY FAVORITE BAND MEMBERS AND CRY WHILE SCREAMING THINGS LIKE, "LOOK AT HOW AGGRESSIVELY YOU'RE PLAYING THAT BASS WITH THAT THIN BODY! I'LL FEED YOU ANYTHING YOU WANT!" OR "XXXX ACTUALLY EXISTS IN THIS WORLD!!"



MY FRIENDS SAY, "SO WHAT? YOU'RE HAVING FUN!" BUT WHEN I LOOK AT ALL THE CDS AND MERCHANDISE IN MY ROOM, IT JUST MAKES ME DEPRESSED. I THINK, "WHAT AM I DOING?" IF I GOT SICK OR LOST MY JOB, IT'S NOT LIKE THESE MUSICIANS WOULD SUPPORT ME, AND AT THIS RATE I'M GOING TO DIE ALONE SURROUNDED BY THESE CDS AND MERCHANDISE.

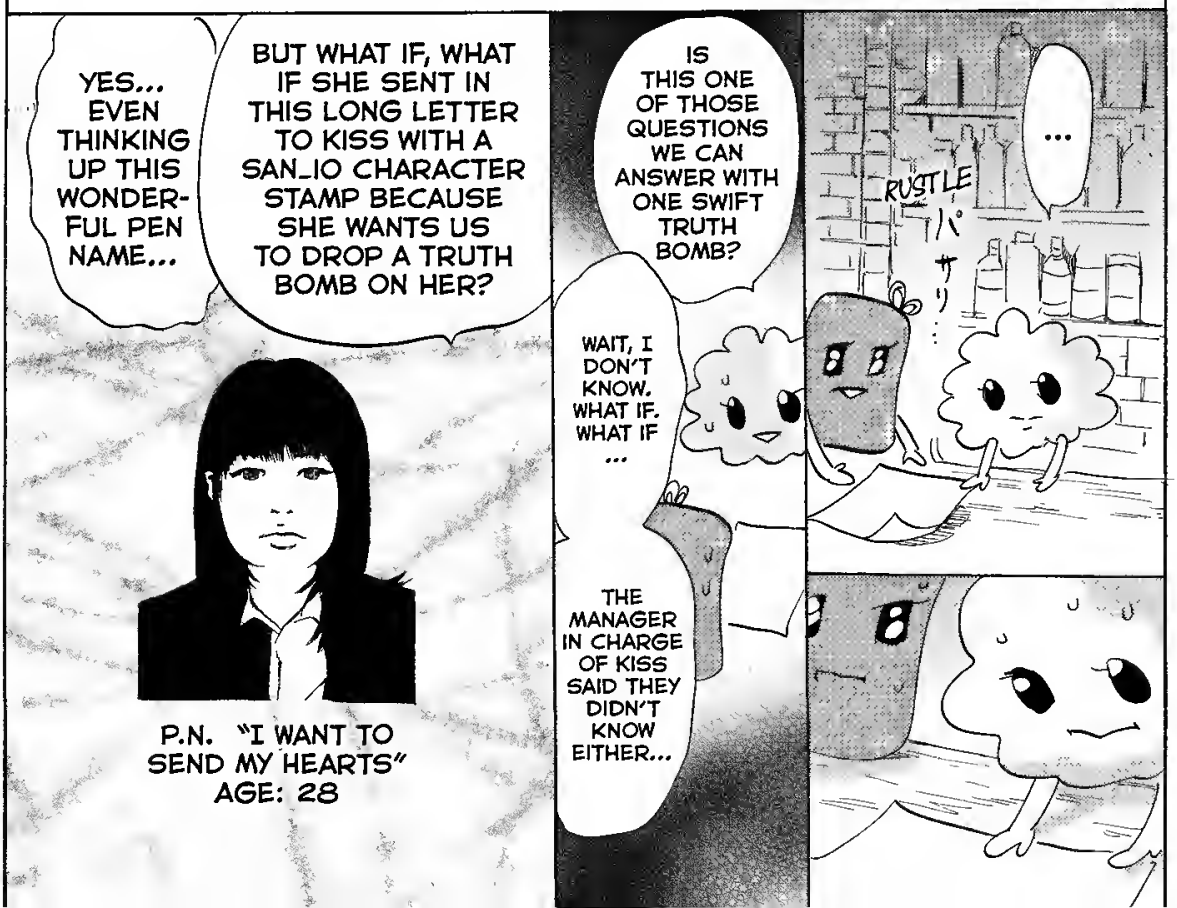
I WANT TO MARRY A NORMAL, KIND OFFICE WORKER WHO LOVES ME. BUT WHEN I GO TO CONCERTS, I FEEL LIKE "THIS MOMENT IS EVERYTHING!!". WHEN MY FRIENDS ARRANGE MIXER-TYPE THINGS FOR ME, I CAN'T GET EVEN THE MEN I LIKE TO BE INTERESTED IN ME. AFTERWARDS, I'LL GO TO CONCERTS AND DREAM ABOUT THE BAND MEMBERS AND DOWNGRADE THE REAL-LIFE GUY I'M INTERESTED IN TO THE RANK OF "MAYBE". BUT SINCE HE ISN'T INTERESTED IN ME EITHER, IT NEVER GOES ANYWHERE.

I DON'T WANT TO DIE ALONE. I'M SCARED. I REALLY DO WANT TO GET MARRIED.

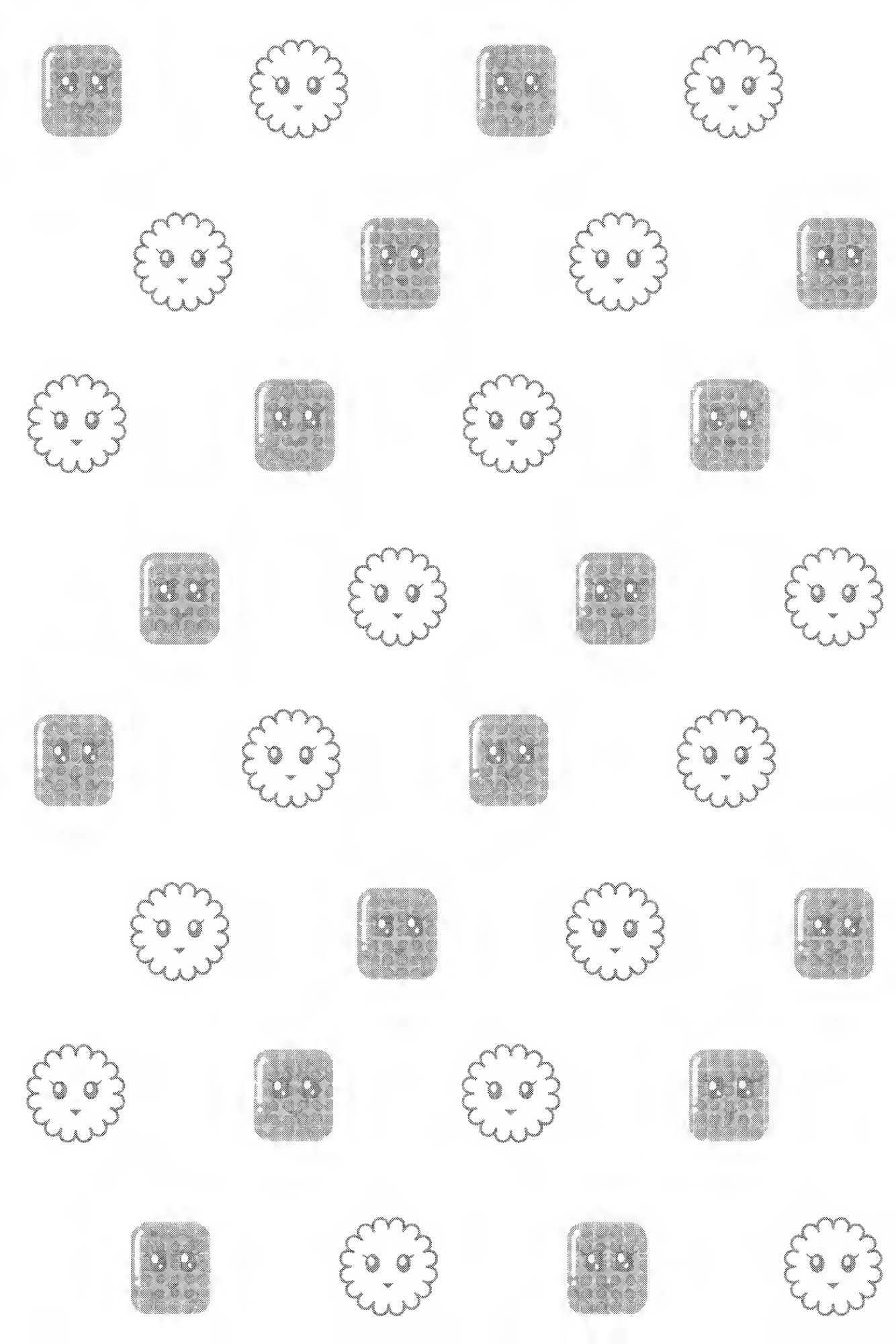


BUT BEFORE I KNOW IT, I'VE BOUGHT MORE CONCERT TICKETS, I WATCH NOTHING BUT MOVIES WITH THESE BAND MEMBERS ON MY DAYS OFF, AND IF I DIDN'T HAVE TO WORK, I'D PROBABLY GRAB MY PASSBOOK AND GO ALL AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH MY FAVORITE MUSICIANS. THAT'S HOW BAD IT IS. (VISUAL-KEI BANDS DO A LOT OF SHOWS. THE MOST PROLIFIC ONES CAN HAVE OVER 100 CONCERTS A YEAR.)

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO. SERIOUSLY.


YES... EVEN THINKING UP THIS WONDER-FUL PEN NAME...
BUT WHAT IF, WHAT IF SHE SENT IN THIS LONG LETTER TO KISS WITH A SAN_IO CHARACTER STAMP BECAUSE SHE WANTS US TO DROP A TRUTH BOMB ON HER?
P.N. "I WANT TO SEND MY HEARTS" AGE: 28
IS THIS ONE OF THOSE QUESTIONS WE CAN ANSWER WITH ONE SWIFT TRUTH BOMB?
WAIT, I DON'T KNOW. WHAT IF. WHAT IF ...
THE MANAGER IN CHARGE OF KISS SAID THEY DIDN'T KNOW EITHER...
...
RUSTLE
パサリ

Sheesh...
This wife of mine...
LOVE
WHAT IF, WHAT IF THAT'S BECAUSE EVEN IF THEY LOVE SOME IDOL, HE'S THEIR LOVER IN A DIFFERENT WORLD THAN THEIR HUSBAND IS?
BECAUSE THERE ARE PLENTY OF WOMEN WHO FOLLOW BANDS AND IDOLS WHO ARE HAPPILY MARRIED. WHAT IF. WHAT IF.
...BUT THAT BECAUSE SHE'S FULL OF DREAMS ABOUT HEAVENLY CELEBRITIES, SHE CAN'T FALL IN LOVE WITH A REAL LIVE EARTHLY MAN?
SO WHAT IF, WHAT IF SHE'S SAYING THAT THE REAL PROBLEM ISN'T THAT SHE'S TOO BUSY FOLLOWING BANDS TO GET MARRIED...
WELL, THAT'S WHAT IT SOUNDS LIKE. WHAT IF. WHAT IF.
WHAT IF, WHAT IF THIS WRITER KNOWS SHE'S ONE OF THE HOPELESS ONES? WHAT IF, WHAT IF SHE ALREADY KNOWS THE ANSWER?
YEP! WHAT IF, WHAT IF THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO?!
THEN THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF I REEEALLY GET THE FEELING HER TYPE'S NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO DO THAT?
BUT AS LONG AS SHE CAN'T SEPARATE FANTASY AND REALITY, SHE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GET MARRIED. WHAT IF! WHAT IF!
FLASH
WHAT IF, WHAT IF SHE'S STILL IN THAT STAGE WHERE SHE CAN'T MAKE THAT SEPARATION?
HOW CAN THIS WOMAN MAKE THAT MENTAL SEPARATION ANYWAY? WHAT IF. WHAT IF.
HEH HEH HEH...
STOP CHASING THEM.
TODAY'S WHAT-IF APHORISM:
THEN WHY NOT STOP CHASING BANDS EVERYWHERE WITHIN THE YEAR AND USE THE MONEY YOU SAVE IN IMPROVING YOURSELF?!
IF YOU SERIOUSLY WANT TO CHANGE THAT...
AND WHAT IF, WHAT IF YOU PREPARED AHEAD OF TIME SO THAT WHEN YOUR FAVORITE MUSICIAN MARRIES A MODEL OR AN IDOL YOU DON'T DIE OF SHOCK?!
WHAT IF, WHAT IF THIS HAIRSTYLE WOULD LOOK GOOD ON YOU?
WHAT IF, WHAT IF PROJECTING YOUR HEARTS ONE-WAY TOWARD THE STAGE FOR YOUR REMAINING YEARS IS ONE WAY TO SPEND YOUR LIFE?!
RMB RMB RMB RMB
THEN I'M GONNA DROP THIS TRUTH BOMB!! IF YOU'RE WILLING TO SAY YOU'RE PREPARED TO LIVE OUT YOUR LIFE FOLLOWING AND SUPPORTING THESE BANDS, BECOMING "NOURISHMENT" FOR THEM, THEN DO AS YOU LIKE!!
DOIBE

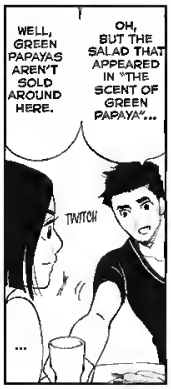


ON A STREET CORNER
BONUS COMIC
WOMEN LIKE THIS!!
LATELY, PEOPLE HAVE EVEN STARTED APPROACHING ME WHILE I'M OUT ON THE TOWN!
M-
MS. HIGASHIMURA!!
GOSH, BEFORE I KNEW IT, TOKYO TARAREBA GIRLS WAS ALREADY ON VOLUME 4!!
4
End
THIS IS HIGASHIMURA SPEAKING!
THANKS FOR BUYING THIS BOOK, EVERYONE!
I just turned 40!
MS. HIGASHIMURA!
C-CALM DOWN! CALM DOWN! IT'S GONNA BE OKAY!
O-OH...
Oh jeez! Oh jeez!
GRAB
Doesn't really ask for an autograph or anything.
MS. HIGASHIMURA!! I READ TARAREBA GIRLS AND REALIZED I WAS IN TROUBLE, SO NOW I'M THINKING OF STARTING THE HUSBAND HUNT, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN!!
BOOM
Right! to the matter at hand!!
THEN ...
OH! BECAUSE I'M WEARING THIS TRACK SUIT?
I'M SURPRISED YOU RECOGNIZED ME!
WHOA!
YOU'RE MS. AKIKO HIGASHIMURA, AREN'T YOU?!
At the supermarket while on a trip.

RECENTLY, PROBABLY BECAUSE I APPEARED ON AN NHK PROGRAM, I'M BEING APPROACHED ESPECIALLY OFTEN WHEN I'M OUTSIDE OF TOKYO.
In Tokyo, no one really talks to me on the streets.
Although they do when I'm in stores and stuff.
AND NOW, I'M PRETTY MUCH USED TO IT.
SPACIN-OUT
(1) A THIRTY-SOMETHING WOMAN TALKS TO ME.
You're Ms. Higashi-mura, aren't you?
(2) I GRAB THEIR SHOULDERS THE SECOND THEY OPEN THEIR MOUTHS.
GRAB
(3) AND HOLD THEIR HANDS TIGHTLY.
GRAB
THEN, THE FIRST THING OUT OF MY MOUTH IS:
IT'S GONNA BE OKAY!!
HANG IN THERE!! YOU'LL FIND A NICE MAN ONE DAY!!
...THAT'S WHAT I SAY.
AND THEY ALL...
MS. HIGASHI-MURA!! I'M GONNA BE MARRIED BY THE END OF THE YEAR!! I SWEAR IT!!
YARGH!!
OHH! I GUESS NOT!!
YOU CAN'T MAKE IT THIS YEAR!! IT'S ALREADY SEPTEMBER!!
THEN BY SPRING OF NEXT YEAR!!
We always talk as we embrace.
THIS WORK IS ALWAYS SAYING GIRLS' NIGHTS OUT ARE FORBIDDEN, BUT...
I'D LIKE TO ONE DAY RENT OUT MY FAVORITE DRINKING ESTABLISHMENT AND HOLD A SUPER-LARGE-SCALE GIRLS' NIGHT OUT WITH ALL THE WHAT-IF GIRLS.
I'VE FOUND ANOTHER DREAM FOR MY LIFE. I HOPE YOU ALL SHOW UP WHEN THAT DAY COMES!
THIS IS A WONDER-FUL THING.
...AND SO EVEN THOUGH I'M MEETING THEM FOR THE FIRST TIME, I CAN FEEL THAT I'M CONNECTED TO ALL THE WHAT-IF GIRLS AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH A STRONG MENTAL BOND.
WHAP
And they all join me with the exact same attitude.

TOKYO TARAREBA GIRLS VOLUME 4 TRANSLATION NOTES

ABOUT THE NAME: "TARAREBA" MEANS "WHAT-IF," LIKE THE "WHAT-IF" STORIES YOU TELL YOURSELF ABOUT WHAT *COULD* BE OR *COULD HAVE* BEEN.

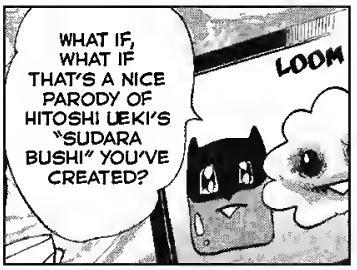


P021: THE SCENT OF GREEN PAPAYA

A FRENCH-MADE, VIETNAMESE-LANGUAGE FILM FROM 1993 ABOUT THE LIFE OF A GIRL WHO BECOMES THE SERVANT OF A WEALTHY FAMILY WHEN SHE IS YOUNG.

P037: SUDARA BUSHI

A SHOWA-ERA POP SONG ABOUT A MAN WHO KEEPS DOING THINGS HE KNOWS ARE BAD FOR HIM BUT HE CAN'T STOP DOING, LIKE OVER-DRINKING AND GAMBLING AWAY HIS BONUS MONEY. EACH VERSE ENDS WITH THE PHRASE "I KNOW (I SHOULDN'T), BUT I JUST CAN'T STOP," WHICH RINKO TWISTS INTO HER "I KNOW THAT, BUT I JUST CAN'T BEAR IT." THE "SUI SUI SUDARA RATTA" BIT IS FROM THE NONSENSE CHORUS OF THE SONG.

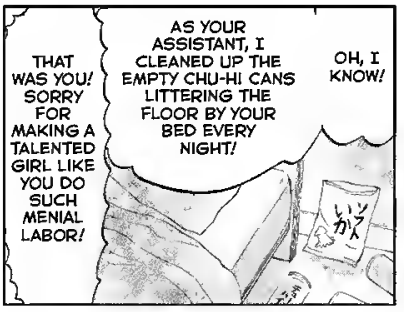


P053: THE WHAT-A-WASTE GHOSTS

A REFERENCE TO A SERIES OF TV PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS RELEASED BY THE JAPAN AD COUNCIL IN THE EARLY 1980S CENTERED AROUND GHOSTS THAT APPEAR WHEN CHARACTERS WASTE THINGS LIKE FOOD, CAUSING THEM TO CORRECT THEIR BEHAVIOR.

P127: CHU-HI

A CANNED VERSION OF CHUHAI, AN ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE TRADITIONALLY MADE WITH SHOCHU AND CARBONATED WATER FLAVORED WITH LEMON, THOUGH VODKA AND OTHER LIQUORS, AS WELL AS OTHER MIXERS/FLAVORINGS CAN BE USED IN MODERN VERSIONS.


THAT WAS YOU! SORRY FOR MAKING A TALENTED GIRL LIKE YOU DO SUCH MENIAL LABOR!
AS YOUR ASSISTANT, I CLEANED UP THE EMPTY CHU-HI CANS LITTERING THE FLOOR BY YOUR BED EVERY NIGHT!
OH, I KNOW!

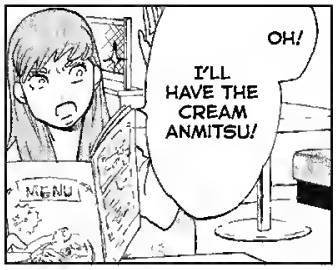
P135: THE IT HAPPENS EXPEDITION PARTY

A REFERENCE TO AN ACT FROM THE EARLY 2000S BY THE COMEDY DUO "REGULAR" IN WHICH THE TWO POINT OUT LITTLE THINGS EVERYONE HAS PROBABLY EXPERIENCED AT SOME POINT (OR, SOMETIMES FOR LAUGHS, THINGS THAT HAVE HAPPENED TO NO ONE) TO A LITTLE SONG AND DANCE.

TOKYO TARAREBA GIRLS VOLUME 4
TRANSLATION NOTES

P138: ANMITSU

A JAPANESE DESSERT MADE WITH AGAR JELLY AND AZUKI BEAN PASTE, WITH BOILED AND CHILLED PEAS, GYUHI (SOFT MOCHI), FRUIT, AND A SWEETENED SYRUP TO TOP IT WITH. CREAM ANMITSU IS THE SAME DISH SERVED WITH WHIPPED OR ICE CREAM.



P145

AJILLO MUSHROOMS: A DISH OF COOKED MUSHROOMS WITH A GARLIC SAUCE.

KARASUMI: A DELICACY MADE BY DRYING SALTED MULLET ROE IN THE SUN.

IBERICO DE BELLOTA: CURED PORK MADE FROM BLACK IBERIAN PIGS THAT WERE FED ONLY ACORNS.

ALSO, THE IBERICO DE BELLOTA AND SALAMI
HEY! WAIT A SECOND! DON'T JUST ORDER WITHOUT ME! LET ME SEE THAT MENU!
I'LL HAVE THE AJILLO MUSHROOMS*, SARDINES IN OIL, AND KARASUMI*.

P146: PINCHOS

SMALL SNACKS TYPICALLY EATEN SOCIALLY IN BARS, CONSISTING OF VARIOUS INGREDIENTS HELD TOGETHER WITH A TOOTHPICK AND SKEWERED ON A PIECE OF BREAD.

P167: AKIKO WADA

A JAPANESE SINGER AND PERFORMER WHO IS VERY COOPERATIVE WITH REPORTERS.

SIGH
STUPID!! STUPID!!
BUT YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND...
I SAID A DUMB THING WHEN I SAID THAT "LOVE ISN'T ANYONE" IN THE FIRST PLACE.
HOW ANNOYING!!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, AKIKO WADA IN ONE OF THOSE ON-THE-SPOT INTERVIEWS?!
I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE THIS FROM A 25-YEAR-OLD BRAT!!
EYE!

Tokyo Tarareba Girls 4

KODANSHA COMICS Digital Edition

Tokyo Tarareba Girls volume 4 copyright © 2015 Akiko Higashimura
English translation copyright © 2017 Akiko Higashimura

All rights reserved.

First published in Japan in 2015 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
Electronic Publishing rights for this English edition arranged through Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.

No portion of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means without written permission from the copyright holders.

English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682337707

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Translation by Steven LeCroy
Lettering by Rina Mapa
Editing by Sarah Tilson
YKS Services LLC/SKY Japan, INC.